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Treasury ponders shrinking State US-style cuts in welfare under review

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

RADICAL proposals for privatising the welfare state and slashing spending on education are being examined by the Treasury as possible ways of cutting the size of the State in the next century.

Ideas imported from the Republicans in America and long favoured by Conservative right-wingers — include reducing benefits for teenage mothers, time-limiting benefits and extending private insurance to cover pensions, sickness and unemployment.

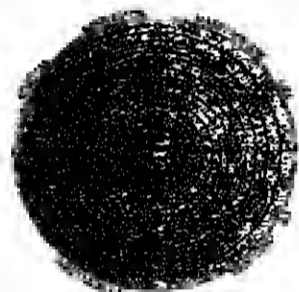
The Government is also considering reducing state support for the education of children over 16 and privatising the road system, according to a far-reaching document called *Strategic Considerations for the Treasury 2000 to 2005*, which has been obtained by *The Times*.

The document, in which officials consider a so-called Contract with Britain on the lines of Newt Gingrich's Contract with America, says that the rising demand for education beyond GCSE is unaffordable and "private returns to individuals and their employers exceed social returns". The existing system could be replaced by a mixture of vouchers for sixth formers, extended loans for students and contributions from employers.

The paper also reveals that the Government is still actively considering going beyond existing experiments in privatising the roads, so that they are treated "as a utility rather than a public service", with the role of central and local government limited.

Considering proposals which "go beyond the Republican agenda", the document says that the idea of privatising contributory benefits covering insurable risks, such as retirement, incapacity and unemployment was "gaining support".

It refers to schemes in Germany allowing people to contract out of sickness benefits, in Chile where there is private insurance for all pension provision and in Singa-



The document's cover: A look into the future

apore where there are compulsory savings towards a range of welfare provisions.

The document, examining how the Treasury might respond to different policy demands over the next five to ten years, was written early this year by a group of senior officials reporting to Sir Terence Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

As well as looking at how the Treasury might be affected if a future government demanded a smaller State, it also carried out a detailed study of how to manage public spending if there were no radical changes in the State's responsibilities.

Although the paper makes plain that it is not considering explicitly how a future Labour government might tackle the tasks of the new millennium, it does examine policy options that have more in common with Labour's approach.

But the disclosure that the Treasury had considered the Republican agenda provoked fury from Labour last night. Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor who will raise the report in today's Commons debate on the economy, said: "This plan would amount to nothing more than the demolition of Britain's welfare state."

The Chancellor must explain why, behind closed doors without being honest about their intentions, the Treasury have been considering extreme right-wing American ideas for the wholesale privatisation of the welfare state and its replacement by private insurance, even for the

basic state provision. This insight into Tory fifth-term thinking is not just a lurch, but a stampede to the Right."

The document confirms predictions that Britain will slip from the "first division" of world economies in the next 20 years. It predicts that it will have been overtaken by India, Brazil, Indonesia and Thailand by 2015, with Mexico and South Korea close behind — and even suggests that at some point ministers will have to decide whether national economic interests are best served by "hitching itself" so closely to European Union markets that it jeopardises its prospects with the "tiger" economies of the Far East.

Mr Brown said last night that the report showed that the Government was prepared to see Britain fall behind Thailand and Brazil because of their policies without being prepared to tackle the causes of decline but simply to manage it.

The officials go on to describe the advent of a single European currency as the biggest challenge facing the Treasury, and say that early British entry would be the best option for the City. But the paper adds: "City interests are unlikely to drive this policy", and concludes that there is less than a 50 per cent chance of Britain joining in 1999 — whoever is in power.

The leak of the report will embarrass the Government. But the authors will also have red faces over its disclosure that they seem less than happy about the drive towards open government. They make plain that they fully expect not only their economic conclusions but the advice on which they are based. "We would not be able to rewrite or edit papers or filter files as now," they write.

Mr Brown said that the revelation that the Treasury had "filleted" files would outrage fair-minded people.

Retrenchment plans, page 8
Leading article, page 17



The Princess of Wales at the Royal Marsden Hospital which she will continue to back after losing her HRH title

Charities fear drop in support after Princess resigns as patron

By Emma Wilkins

THE Princess of Wales left nearly 100 British and Commonwealth charities shocked and disappointed yesterday when she resigned as their patron.

In the first move towards her new life as a semi-detached member of the Royal Family, the Princess has cut her workload to just six charities of her own choice. The 93 rejected charities were informed of the Princess's decision in a typed letter from Kensington Palace dated July 15 — the day the first stage of the royal divorce proceedings were concluded.

The Princess, who personally addressed and signed each letter, wrote: "It has been a great privilege for me to serve as your patron and it has always been my wish that I should do so wholeheartedly and to the best of my ability. Therefore it is with great sadness that I write to you in

order to explain matters which have now become apparent.

"As you know, my personal circumstances, in particular my marriage to The Prince of Wales, have been the subject of detailed conjecture in recent months, and this will soon be formalised in the normal legal manner.

"Although I am embarking upon the future with hope, I also do so with some trepidation since there are a number

of matters which I shall need to resolve. It is for this reason that I am writing in order to resign my current role as patron with you. As I seek to reorganise my life, it will not be possible for me to provide you with the level of commitment that I believe you deserve. I feel that someone else in the Royal Family may now be better suited to support your tremendous endeavours.

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the many opportunities that you have provided me with for serving the people of this country. I will always retain a keen interest in everything that you do and trust that we shall have reason for our paths to cross in the not too distant future."

Her resignation has left at least one charity fearing that a new £25 million appeal for a residential home for blind children could be in jeopardy.

Details will be announced in the autumn of the Princess's expanded role with the

Centrepoint homeless charity, the National Aids Trust, the Leprosy Mission which has links with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and the English National Ballet. She also remains president of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children and the Royal Marsden Hospital, which specialises in cancer research and treatment.

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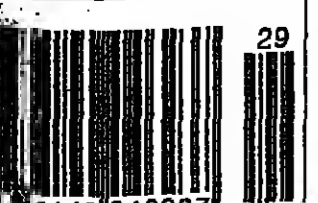


Beef deal doubts

The safety of British beef by-products was thrown into question again when the European Commission reported scientific doubts about the conditions under which Britain is to be allowed to resume exports after a hard-fought agreement last month. Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, said that "the issue of gelatine" was to be re-examined. Page 10

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MPs approve sale of forces' homes

By James Landale, Political Reporter

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday averted a Tory backbench rebellion over the planned sale of the armed forces' married quarters by offering MPs a range of concessions.

The Commons victory came despite the publication yesterday of a report by the Tory-dominated Defence select committee criticising the Defence Secretary for the way the sale has been handled.

MPs voted by 307 to 275 against a Labour motion calling for the sale to be delayed for further consultation. Ministers hope to raise up to £2 billion by selling and then renting back some 58,000 army homes to one large corporate developer. Final bids must be in by the end of July and the sale is expected to go ahead in mid-August.

The move prompted widespread opposition from Tory MPs and the armed forces who feared it would harm

morale by breaking up "patches" where service families live and provide support for each other. Mr Portillo told MPs he had taken on board these fears and announced three concessions:

□ Service families would be consulted if a developer wanted to move them from one site to another. Although the families could not veto the move, the Government would take their views into account before deciding if the developer had met very strict criteria for the move. This has been one of the main concerns of service families.

□ The Government would ensure that schools were near the new site and also of good quality.

□ Developers would have to give four years' notice, instead of the original two, if they wanted to redevelop a site, after 25 years. This would give the Ministry of Defence more time to find new homes.

Shares dive after selling on Wall St

By Janet Bush

LONDON shares registered their biggest drop for more than two years yesterday as a selling contagion swept over the Atlantic from Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 66 lower at 3,632.3, after Wall Street slumped by 161 points on Monday.

New York investors were running scared after brokers said that shares that have enjoyed a record-breaking run this year were now overvalued. They were also worried about possible American interest rate rises.

Wall Street seemed to stabilise briefly yesterday, but by lunchtime the Dow Jones Industrial Average was down another 90 points.

In London, there was concern about figures showing that the Government borrowed £3.6 billion more than it received in taxes last month.

George warning, page 25

Oxford given £20m by Arab magnate

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

A MYSTERIOUS Middle-Eastern businessman, whose racehorses have won two of this year's classics, yesterday announced a £20 million gift to Oxford University to fund a new business school.

Wafic Said, a financier and construction magnate, is a friend of Baroness Thatcher and the Saudi royal family. He helped British Aerospace clinch a £20 billion arms contract with Saudi Arabia, although he insists that he has never been an arms dealer and took no commission.

In an unusual step, Dr Peter North, the university Vice-Chancellor, wrote to all dons yesterday, telling them of the scheme. The donation has been approved by Oxford's ethics committee, but Mr Said's business background is likely to attract criticism in the university.

With many dons already away from the city on vacation, the timing of the an-

nouncement minimised any immediate risk of opposition.

The university is almost half way to raising another £20 million to staff the school, which will occupy land presently used as playing fields.

Mr Said never completed a degree, although his father founded Syria's first university in Damascus. But his son Khaled has just graduated from Oxford after studying law at Balliol College.

The school, which will cater eventually for 500 students, aims to compete with the top American and European institutions and will, subject to planning permission, open in the 1998-99 academic year. □ Lord Nuffield's £3 million gift to establish medical sciences in the 1930s, worth about £77 million at today's prices, is considered Oxford's most valuable donation in modern times.

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If you want the answer to an easy question, don't ask a Labour MP

Harry Barnes (Lab, Derbyshire NE) has just stumbled upon an important truth. It came in an envelope addressed to him by mistake: a note from a minister in the Department of Trade and Industry.

"Dear Colleague, I should be most grateful if you could spare the time to attend a brief discussion with DTI Ministers at 2.15 on Wednesday, July 17. Your contribution to DTI Question Time at 2.30 is much appreciated, and this will be an opportunity to

ensure that the resultant exchanges are, as far as possible, beneficial to all concerned.

"The meeting will be held in the Large Ministerial Conference Room. I look forward to seeing you there. Yours ever, Simon Coombs."

It was immediately clear to the sharp-clawed Mr Barnes what was going on. Coombs had read the order paper and noted the Tories lined up to question ministers. Now he was trying to bully them into asking questions that ministers wanted to answer.

Coombs had mistaken Barnes for a Tory.

Mr Barnes tells me he plans to amend. He told Madam Speaker yesterday about the invitation.

MPs on both sides roared with laughter. Ministers have always made furtive attempts to "plant" patsy questions on poolling backbench colleagues, but what surprised and amused us was to see this being done so methodically.

When your sketchwriter was a Tory backbencher, ministers still had shame. The



frontbencher himself would never contact you. Instead, his parliamentary private secretary would just happen to join the queue for toast in the Members' tearoom. After some polite chat about the weather, he would say: "Oh, by the way, I see you're in line for a question to my boss about widget production. Any special concerns you might be raising? He likes to do his homework, you know."

"Yes," one would reply. "This new tax on widget exports. It's killing a factory in my constituency."

"Ah," he would say, followed by a long pause. "Tricky. You may not know that my boss is fighting very

hard for widget manufacturing, behind the scenes. Now, if you asked him for a climbdown now — well, he couldn't. Counterproductive, you see — harden things up just when we're trying to soften."

"Hrm."

"But if you could ask him for the good news on widgets — well, an optimistic note would make his life — and yours — easier."

"But I don't feel optimistic."

"Come and have a drink with him after the 7pm vote

tonight, and tell him so privately. He'd appreciate that. He really does rate you, you know. Was saying so only this morning. That Parris is a good man to have on side," he told me. "Shamefully overlooked..."

One was left feeling like a complete heel unless one co-operated. Now, it seems, it's done in a more military style. Either way, it never works. Scripted exchanges sound like scripted exchanges. At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday (just before Harry Barnes

spoke) John Major, stung by a needling question from Tony Blair, had blasted the Labour front bench out of the water, to cheers from behind him. A moment later David Amess (C, Basildon) tried a pooling question ("new phoney Labour, new real danger") and elicited the limpest of replies from Mr Major.

DTI ministers would be wise to eject Barnes from their meeting. He gives ministers a better chance to shine by staying where he is: outside, throwing rocks.

Bitter exchanges at Stormont replace violence on streets

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 500 troops were withdrawn from Northern Ireland yesterday in a clear signal from the RUC and the Army that they believe the security crisis has abated.

But as soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment flew home last night, the political fall-out from last week's violence worsened as politicians traded recriminations at the multiparty talks at Stormont.

The SDLP and the Alliance Party called on George Mitchell, chairman of the talks, to review the Ulster Unionist participation after the party allegedly stoked up last week's trouble.

John Major pleaded with loyalist terrorists to back away from a tit-for-tat campaign of violence in response to the bomb that virtually destroyed a hotel in Enniskillen. He reacted to Unionist threats of increased violence by saying that the weekend bombing must not "relaunch the cycle of violence" in Northern Ireland and he praised loyalists for their past restraint.

Mr Major said: "I particularly welcome the restraint that has continually been

shown by the loyalist groups and I hope very much they will continue to show that restraint in the future."

John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, will hold talks with Mr Major in Downing Street this afternoon. The MP for Foyle will be joined by his three parliamentary colleagues for his first meeting with the Prime Minister since last week's stand-off at Drumcree.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, proposed that Mr Major should hold a joint meeting with the leaders of the four main constitutional parties in Northern Ireland. This would include Mr Trimble, Mr Hume, the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists and John Alderdice, the Alliance leader.

Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the SDLP, said Mr Trimble had flouted the Mitchell principles of non-violence by supporting the loyalist protest at Drumcree. Mr Mallon also highlighted a meeting Mr Trimble held at Drumcree at the height of the crisis with Billy Wright, a former Ulster Volunteer Force prisoner who has links with

paramilitaries in the Mid-Ulster area.

John Alderdice, the Alliance leader, also criticised Mr Trimble. He said: "Anyone who looked at the television pictures of the last week can only have seen force and the threat of the use of force and can only have seen the leader of the Ulster Unionist Party leading the charge."

Mr Trimble, whose Upper Bann constituency includes Drumcree, vehemently rejected the allegations: "We are opposed to the use of force and have called on people to maintain their ceasefire. We followed up those words with practical action on the streets at considerable inconvenience to ourselves in try to maintain the peace."

It is understood that Mr Trimble's comments referred to a meeting he had with Mr Wright last Wednesday at Drumcree. A senior Ulster Unionist source said that Mr Trimble called on Mr Wright to use his influence to maintain the loyalist ceasefire and to ensure that a bulldozer, which had been driven to Drumcree by loyalists, was not used to break through police lines.

A sign of hope came as Sir Patrick Mayhew and Dick Spring, Ireland's Deputy Prime Minister, tried to mend fences in a half-hour meeting. Sir Patrick reacted furiously last week when the Irish Government criticised the RUC for allowing Orangemen to march along the nationalist Garvaghy Road in Portadown to defuse the five-day stand-off.

A senior Irish source said that last night's talks, which will be followed up by a full Anglo-Irish Conference in London tomorrow, were friendly. The source said: "They want to put this back on the rails because the alternative is horrendous."

Half of the 1,000 troops flown in last week will remain in Northern Ireland, underlining the RUC's fear that there is still a threat of terrorism. The move leaves 18,000 troops in Northern Ireland, including the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



Wafic Said, who put aside his cherished privacy to announce the £20 million gift

Affection for Britain lures financier into limelight

BY BILL FROST

FABULOUS wealth and the discretion demanded by a network of the world's most influential contacts have fostered Wafic Said's passion for privacy.

The Syrian-born financier normally shuns the limelight. So he must have surprised even himself by agreeing to appear at yesterday's press conference to announce his £20 million gift to Oxford University.

His world of discreet nods and whispered confidences eschews intrusion. Too many deals could be put in jeopardy, too many reputations risked. Mr Said, now a Saudi citizen, is becoming the most publicity-shy tycoon since Howard Hughes. He employs Sir Tim Bell, the doyen of British public relations, to keep his name out of the media.

After a particularly glowing profile in one national newspaper, the journalist responsible was told by Mr Said's mother that the subject of the hagiography was displeased. "Whether you write good or bad things about him, he despises it all," she said.

He first came to prominence in 1992 during a Commons Select Committee hearing on the "Iraqi Supergun" affair when he was said to be the British Aerospace agent in Saudi Arabia who had helped secure "the weapons sale of the century" for this country.

The £20 billion Al Yama-

ham deal, signed by Baroness Thatcher while Prime Minister, was alleged to have given her son Mark a "slice of the action". Mr Said himself was to say later that he had "never even sold a penknife". However, there is no question about his friendship with the Thatchers and their fondness for him.

Mr Said was born rich and studied in Beirut before coming to London in 1959 to take up a place at the Institute of Bankers. At a coffee shop in Bayswater, he was to make friends with two Saudi princes — Bandar and Khalid, sons of Prince Sultan, a brother of King Fahd and soon to become the Minister of Defence.

Tragedy was to bring Mr Said close to Prince Sultan and guarantee his place on the

world's financial stage. His son drowned when he came to the defence minister's home to be sworn in as a Saudi Arabian citizen in 1981.

By ancient tradition, the Saudi royal family was then bound to the bereaved father. The tragedy came at a time when they were major spenders in the world defence market. The relationship was to be Mr Said's passport to financial backing that only petrol-dollars can give. It opened the door to the West's political leaders too.

Married 25 years ago to Rosemary, a Briton, Mr Said has developed an ardent passion for British traditions and sportsmanship. Although now based in Monaco with homes in Paris, Marbella and Riyadh, he is said to have fallen in love with England.



An artist's impression of the Oxford Business School

Manchester seeks redesign plans

BY KATE ALDERSON

ARCHITECTS are being invited today to submit plans for the rebuilding of Manchester city centre which was destroyed by an IRA bomb last month.

The City Centre Task Force, set up with European and government funding, will announce details of the International Design Competition at Manchester Town Hall. The Task Force, a partnership of business, council and government representatives, is offering a £50,000 prize to the competition winner.

Richard Leese, Labour leader of the city council, said Manchester had been "horribly damaged by the bomb. We have an opportunity to replan a city centre, the first time such an opportunity has existed since after the war in

this country." The redesign should allow the medieval district and the northern part of the city, cut off by the Arndale Centre, to be reintegrated, he said. It would also create more pedestrian-only spaces and reintroduce the River Irwell into city life.

More than 100,000 square feet of retail and office space was devastated by the bomb on June 15. The competition winner will be announced in November.

Police teams stripped the interior of two south London houses used by a suspected IRA active service unit yesterday as seven men continued to be questioned by anti-terrorist branch detectives. Detectives are also hunting for a store of up to 180 kilograms of Semtex.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

Bottomley sidelined in Tories' summer campaign

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY and Douglas Hogg have been sidelined by the Tory high command in Cabinet infighting over who should lead a summer campaign against Labour. Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman who advocated their dismissal in a reshuffle, has succeeded in limiting their media appearances in a forthcoming offensive.

Mrs Bottomley, the Heritage Sec-

retary, is furious that she has been given shared responsibility for the regions with Roger Freeman, one of the national spotlight. Mr Hogg will not feature at all. Hard-hitting ministers of state, such as Ann Widdecombe, will have higher profiles.

Agreement on a series of Central Office committees in spearhead the fightback was expected at last week's political Cabinet meeting, which rubber-stamped the "New Labour, new danger" campaign. But the

process was delayed by a failure before the Cabinet meeting to agree on which ministers should serve on which committees.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will chair a committee to examine Labour's economic proposals. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, will cover the constitution. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, will lead on law and order. Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, will chair a committee to expose splits in the Labour Party. Ann Widdecombe, the

Home Office minister, will act as his deputy.

One of Mr Portillo's supporters said last night: "Membership has not been finalised. He has to tread carefully. His remit extends into other ministers' responsibilities."

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, will also play a key role in the summer campaign.

A senior Central Office aide said: "We view the regions as a very important dimension of our presentation over the coming months. It will

be a great test for Mrs Bottomley's skills." The Heritage Secretary does not share the opinion. She believes she has been deliberately shunted into the sidelines by Dr Mawhinney, the party chairman. One party source said: "She is absolutely furious at being left out. They are trying to keep her off the television."

Yesterday Dr Mawhinney unveiled a poster bearing the slogan "Labour's Union Jack" over a white flag, with the message: "New Labour. No Britain."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

One in three CSA judgments is wrong

Absent fathers owe £900 million to the mothers caring for their children, most of which will never be recovered, according to the official auditor's report on the Child Support Agency. One in three of its maintenance assessments is wrong by as much as £30 a week.

Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, accepts that the agency is improving: last year every second assessment was wrong. Errors included the use of insufficient or out-of-date information, arithmetical mistakes, the use of incorrect mortgage rates or making too much allowance for self-employed fathers' expenses.

For the second year running Sir John has refused to accept that the accounts of the agency are accurate. He said there was insufficient information to determine the financial impact of incorrect maintenance assessments.

Gun lobby seeks funds

The gun lobby in Britain is urging gun clubs and shooters to give financial support for a drive to counter mounting public pressure for a ban on the private ownership of handguns and to pay for legal representation at the Duoblane inquiry. A spokesman for the British Shooting Sports Council declined to say how much cash had been raised so far. He denied a suggestion from the anti-gun lobby that the campaign required £500,000.

Tube talks continue

Rail union officials and executives from London Underground were locked in talks at the conciliation service Acas last night in a final attempt to avert tomorrow's Tube strike. The one-day walkout by drivers from the Aslef and Rail, Maritime and Transport unions is expected to bring virtually all Underground services to a halt from midnight tonight. The unions are in dispute over a promised nine hour cut in the working week.

Scots get a say on stone

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is to give the public a say on where the Stone of Scone will be housed when it returns to Scotland. Submissions will be accepted until August 16. The Government yesterday released a secret file it claims authenticates the stone, based on X-rays made in the 1970s. There was speculation that a fake may have been returned to London after the stone's theft from Westminster Abbey in 1950.

Castle attacks Labour

Baroness Castle of Blackburn launched a pamphlet attacking Labour's pensions policy yesterday. The former Labour Social Services Minister, now 85, challenged the party leadership to reverse a policy U-turn and keep basic state pensions rising in line with earnings. The party recently hiked that state pensions should rise only with inflation, a much lower increase. She criticised its ruling body, the National Executive Committee, as being "supine".

Poacher sparks alert

A security review has been ordered at the official Dublin residence of the Irish President Mary Robinson after she discovered a poacher in the grounds. President Robinson and her husband Nicholas spotted the 19-year-old intruder fishing in a pond at Aras an Uachtairain in Phoenix Park while on a stroll. She personally escorted him off the premises. Three weeks ago another man got over the perimeter fence and was found in the grounds.

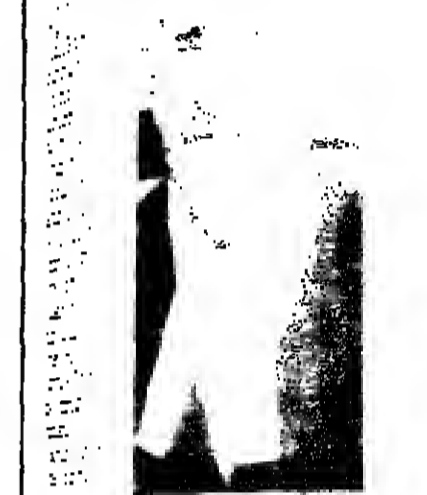
Sailor electrocuted

A British sailor was killed when his yacht clipped electricity lines in the Philippines, sending 62,000 volts through his body. A verdict of accidental death was recorded in Graham Aspery, 35, of Hayling Island, Hampshire, at an inquest in Portsmouth. The yacht was blown apart as the current passed down the mast but only two small burns were visible on Mr Aspery: on his right hand where the power entered his body and on his left foot where it left.

New Radio 4 controller

James Boyle, the head of Radio Scotland, has been appointed the controller of Radio 4. He will take up the post in early autumn when Michael Green steps down. Mr Boyle joined the BBC in 1975 and became head of Radio Scotland in 1992. He said: "I know the passion Radio 4 inspires in its audience and programme makers and I will listen to their concerns in working to maintain the intelligence and interest that pervade its programmes."

Botham du QC's bounce in court att



Boyle arrested in murder case

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July 15 1996

Carman: 'Are you a truthful man?' Botham: 'We're not all saints. I once broke a window'

Botham ducks QC's bouncers in court attack

BY JOANNA BALE AND TIM JONES

IAN BOTHAM underwent an hour of searching cross-questioning by George Carman, QC, the leading libel lawyer, in the High Court yesterday as he was challenged over whether he told the truth.

On the second day of his libel action against Imran Khan, the former England cricket captain stood defensively in the dock with his arms crossed as Mr Carman, representing Imran, launched his attack. Botham, who with his former colleague, Allan Lamb, is suing the former Pakistan captain for libel, was asked by Mr Carman: "Are you a truthful man?"

Botham: "Yes sir, I'd like to think so."

Mr Carman: "Always?"

Botham: "As often as you can be. We are not all saints. I once broke a window at school — we all do something wrong."

Earlier Botham had glared at Imran as the two clashed over Imran's review of his autobiography, in which he said the real hero was Botham's wife, Kathy. In exchange, which occurred as Botham stood in the witness box only yards from where Imran was sitting with his wife, Jenima — the first occasion on which the two men had acknowledged each other's presence during the hearing — Botham told him his marriage was very successful.

Botham is suing Imran for libel over an article in *The Sun* in which he said that illegal ball tampering was common among fast bowlers.

Botham and Lamb are also suing the former Pakistan captain over an article in *India Today* magazine in which Imran allegedly accused them of racism, of being uneducated and of lacking class and upbringing.

Mr Carman asked Botham why he did not pursue libel actions against two Sunday newspapers which alleged that he had taken drugs and indulged in extra-marital sex during cricket tours of New Zealand and the West Indies.

Botham said that he had not wanted to "risk everything" he had worked for by taking on Sunday newspapers with huge resources. Botham said he was well aware of an article in the *News Of The World* in 1986 which alleged he had sex with Miss Barbados and had

taken cocaine with her during a tour of the West Indies. Mr Carman put it to Botham that the article had caused "great personal distress in your relationship with your wife".

Botham, whose wife Kathy was in court, replied: "Yes, it caused her distress until I spoke to her about it. I told her that it was untrue, and she understood."

Mr Carman asked him why he had dropped legal action against British newspapers, but had decided to sue Imran on the basis of something published in *India Today*.

Botham answered: "When I am accused of cheating, or of being a racist, I feel strongly

conference or spoke to a large group of journalists to say publicly that you had never taken marijuana or cocaine in your life."

Mr Carman added: "That was a lie, wasn't it?"

Botham denied that he had lied, saying: "No, because I had to take legal advice, and when confronted by journalists you tend to freeze."

Mr Carman: "It was a lie, wasn't it?"

Botham: "Yes, sir."

Mr Carman mentioned Botham's prosecution in 1986 for possession of marijuana after police raided his home, then moved on to a joke Botham had made about Pakistan during a radio interview which caused him to be suspended and fined £1,000 by the English cricket authorities.

Mr Carman said: "What you said about Pakistan was that it was where you would like to send your mother-in-law for a month, all expenses paid."

Botham replied: "No, I said for two weeks."

When the laughter died down Mr Carman went on: "That was a disgracefully offensive observation to the people and cricketers of Pakistan, wasn't it?"

Botham replied that he had meant it as a light-hearted "mother-in-law joke".

Mr Carman: "You don't like Pakistan?"

Botham: "Why would I not like it? I have no objection to playing there. I've been there three times and I have a lot of friends there."

Botham had earlier told how he demanded an apology after Imran had written a cutting review of his autobiography in which he said: "By the time I had finished the autobiography, I was in no doubt as to who the real hero of the book is. It is Botham's wife, Kathy. I wish her all the luck for the remainder of her marriage."

"Turning his gaze directly at Imran, Botham said: "I thought it was an extremely arrogant remark and I would like to inform Imran that my wife and I have an extremely successful marriage, thank you."

In the review two years ago in *The Sunday Times*, Imran had described the autobiography as "a sad book that displays his bitterness". The case continues.



Carman: searching cross-questioning



Ian Botham and his wife, Kathy, arriving at the High Court, where the cricketer spent yesterday fielding questions about ball tampering

Dogged Beefy plays a straight bat to legal googlies in marathon innings

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SOME juries have to endure the Maxwell trial, or the endless McDonald's saga. Others get to watch cricket.

The seven men and five women in court 13 of the High Court were treated to a sparkling innings yesterday as Ian Botham, on the second day of his libel action against Imran Khan, faced the devastating reverse swing bowling of George Carman, QC. Mr Carman does not take prisoners: he takes wickets.

Court 13 is in dire need of a new south stand; a capacity crowd filled the wholly inadequate public gallery and many were left disappointed outside. Those inside enjoyed a measure of participation in the games: judge, counsel, jury and key witnesses all had shining and untampered new balls to play with, and shortly before lunch play stopped so that they could watch some old Test match clips showing Botham possibly, or possibly not, doing something to a ball. They enjoyed it so much they asked to see it again, with the television a bit closer.

Botham, at the wicket all day, had an easy start to his innings in the witness box, juggling the new ball

from hand to hand in spare moments, and effortlessly stonewalling the medium-paced bowling of his own QC, Charles Gray. Dressed in blue blazer and off-white flannels, he managed to score the occasional single, as when he explained that he had abandoned plans in the 1980s to take a multiracial team to South Africa; not because he was being insufficiently paid, but because he was insulted by the South African's offer to make Viv Richards an "honorary white" so that he and Botham could dine in the same restaurant.

He scored another easy two when asked what he thought of an article by Imran in *The Sunday Times* suggesting that the real hero was his wife for putting up with him. "It was extremely arrogant, and I would like to inform you that we have an extremely successful marriage, thank you." Played with a straight bat, in front of strawberry-blonde wife spectating in the front row.

Botham played all accusations of ball-tampering straight back down the pitch. Yes, he did throw the new ball to the wicketkeeper, but not for him to rough up one side with his gloves, merely to wipe off the sweat that had

gathered after being in a cellophane bag in the umpire's pocket. The jury passed a note up to the judge. Could they see some old balls? Mr Carman said: "I have taken the precaution of bringing with me some old balls — er, used balls."

But then after the lunch interval, Mr Carman took his position at the bowler's end for six overs of cross-examination. The deliveries came at Botham from unexpected directions.

What about the marijuana, cocaine and women in New Zealand? What about sex with Miss Barbados? What about the dropping of libel actions against *The Mail* on Sunday and *News of the World*? Mr Gray was on his feet appealing to the umpire, Mr Justice French, that Miss Barbados was a clear no-ball, but the judge allowed the questioning to proceed. Botham had to give up stonewalling and fling his bat about a bit. Are you a truthful man, Mr Botham? I think so, sir, although I may have broken a window at school. You told lies to journalists, Mr Botham. You tend to panic when faced with journalists, sir.

But Botham got in two quick singles, one when Mr Carman recalled that the cricketer's home had

been raided and drugs found. The witness retorted: "0.19 of a gram of marijuana; I remember it well." He got the other when asked why he was continuing his libel action against the magazine *India Today*, while he had once dropped one against the *News of the World*, which had an infinitely larger circulation. "Not in Asia, I wouldn't have thought." Appreciative laughter from the crowd.

Mr Gray was on his feet again, appealing once more to the umpire against muck-raking. Mr Carman was again allowed to continue.

But instead of pursuing Miss Barbados, Mr Carman produced what appeared to be a paper bag of apples. It was in fact the old balls the jury had asked for. He handed them to the judge, who passed them to the jury, who fondled them like exotic worry beads.

"I am waiting for Mr Carman to say, 'Can I have my ball back?'" the judge interjected, barely suppressing a laugh. Clearly delighted with his own small shaft of wit, the umpire declared stumps drawn for the day. England's innings continues today when Mr Carman will resume the bowling for Pakistan.

Boy, 13, arrested in Jade murder case

BY ADAM FRESCO

A BOY aged 13 was arrested yesterday by police investigating the murder of the schoolgirl Jade Matthews.

He spent the day at an undisclosed police station on Merseyside being questioned about his movements on July 5, the day that Jade, 9, was found battered to death on a railway siding.

Police would not say if he was the same 13-year-old who was arrested and held for 24 hours last week before being released without charge. Two 17-year-old youths and Jade's natural father were also arrested last week and later released.

Jade disappeared after going out to play near her home in Bootle about 4pm on

the Sunday. Hundreds of neighbours and friends joined police that night in a search for her. Her body was discovered by a police dog handler a mile and a half away early next morning. She had been battered to death with part of a wooden window frame.

Several witnesses have spoken of seeing Jade on July 7 with a 13-year-old boy with a mountain bike. They are among dozens who have come forward in response to appeals for help by police and Jade's mother and stepfather, Denise, 31, and Stephen, 37.

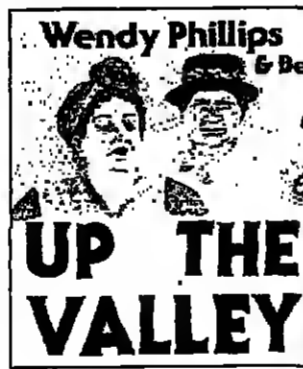
A mobile police station set up for five hours close to the murder scene a week after the crime brought more than 60 fresh calls.

Cleaner is swept away to star in Hollywood

BY PETER FOSTER

A SCHOOL cleaning lady is going to Hollywood, to star in a film about a woman who wins a trip to Hollywood. Film-makers believe their discovery, Wendy Phillips, 59, has the qualities of great Ealing comedy actresses.

Mrs Phillips, a cleaner for 26 years at Cwm Garw Primary in Pontycymer, Mid Glamorgan, will play a Welsh woman named Ethel in *Into the Wood*. The film involves the heroine meeting stars and becoming so enchanted that she decides to stay. Yesterday the producer was in America trying to negotiate cameo



Wendy Phillips and a poster for her previous film

from Tony Curtis and Sir Anthony Hopkins.

Like Ethel, Mrs Phillips is going to America for the first time. She will stay in Malibu for eight days with her husband, David, 65, a retired miner, but has no thoughts of giving up her £40-a-week job. She said: "I'm not going to let all this go to my head. One person asked to keep my overalls when I'm famous." She was discovered



through a mutual friend by Sara Sugarman, director of *Into the Wood*, and acted in a Channel 4 play *The Village* and in Sugarman's last film *Up the Valley*, an award-winner at the Welsh International Film Festival. She will be paid a £15 daily allowance and a share of profits. Ms Sugarman said: "Wendy is a natural. She has qualities of actresses like Margaret Rutherford and Irene Handl."

MP blows Pig and Whistle on 'phoney' pub names

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A CAMPAIGN has been launched by a Tory MP to prevent the Dog and Duck and the Pig and Whistle from becoming endangered species.

Nicholas Winterton has joined forces with the Campaign for Real Ale to try to protect traditional pub names. He tabled a Commons motion yesterday urging the Government to ensure that the names of long-established public houses cannot be changed without planning permission.

The call to arms went up when Mr Winterton discovered that the 200-year-old Bull's Head, in the centre of his Macclesfield constituency in Cheshire, is to be renamed the Pig and Truffle. The MP,

who has hosted receptions for the Campaign for Real Ale on the Commons terrace, said last night: "This is outrageous. This pub is a point of identity which has been known by its existing name for hundreds of years."

Mr Winterton, who is backed by his local borough council, is seeking to stop breweries giving their pubs contrived names such as the Slug and Salad, the Goose and Granite, Scruffy Murphys and the Hare and Billet.

The names he believes are under threat include the Bag o' Nails (corruption of Bacchus), the Goat and Compasses (God Encompasses Us), the Pig and Whistle (a corruption

of wassail), the Ship and Shovel (Sir Cloudsley Shovel, an admiral in Queen Anne's reign), and The Salvation (a reference to the Angel Gabriel saluting the Virgin Mary).

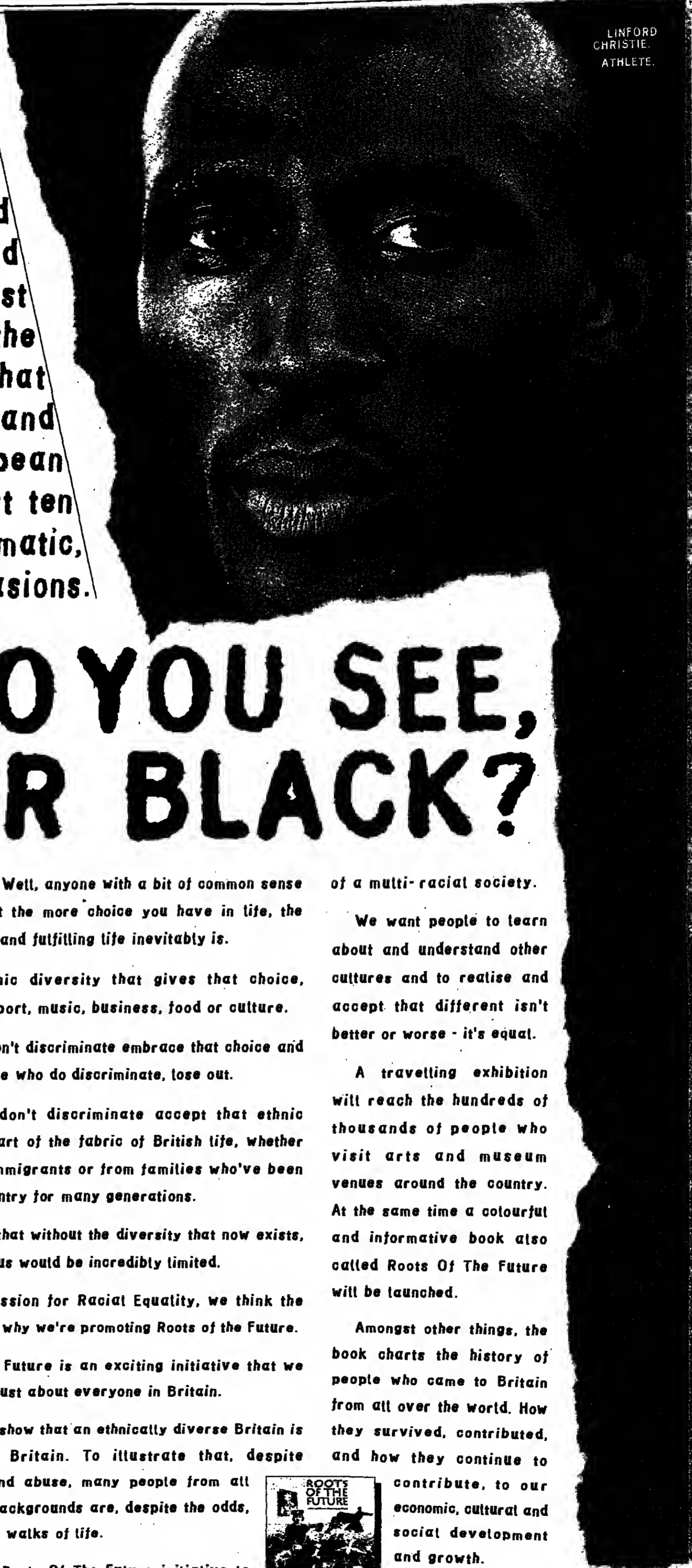
Mr Winterton said: "In many cases, the names of pubs represent historical events and political persuasions in years gone by. All this could disappear unless we act now."

Stephen Cox, campaigns manager for the Campaign for Real Ale, said: "It's not only the names which are changing for the worse. It is the character of the pubs. We support anything which will preserve the identity of the traditional British pub."

...UP A GEAR.

"Is your company on Mercury's fast data network?"

Linford Christie is possibly the best athlete Britain has ever produced. There are people in Britain who don't care what colour he is, and there are those who would discriminate against him just because he is black. For the people who don't care what colour he is, the Olympics and both the World and the European Championships over the past ten years or so have been dramatic, memorable, and exciting occasions.



LINFORD CHRISTIE. ATHLETE.

WHAT DO YOU SEE, GOLD OR BLACK?

They've been able to cheer him as he has gone on one victorious lap of honour after another.

They've seen him draped in the Union Jack and it has given them a sense of pride in being British.

He's given them rare and unique moments they'll remember for ever.

For those who would discriminate against him because they don't like the colour of his skin?

Well we can only assume they found these historic and memorable moments to be non-events.

Now, although sport is just one aspect of life in this country, it would appear to us that for every aspect you can possibly think of, you have these two groups of people viewing things with their own particular perspective.

And it seems to us that it's always the same individuals who choose to discriminate who are the ones missing out on so much.

How? Why? Well, anyone with a bit of common sense would agree that the more choice you have in life, the more interesting and fulfilling life inevitably is.

And it's ethnic diversity that gives that choice, whether it's in sport, music, business, food or culture.

People who don't discriminate embrace that choice and invariably, people who do discriminate, lose out.

People who don't discriminate accept that ethnic minorities are part of the fabric of British life, whether they're recent immigrants or from families who've been living in this country for many generations.

They realise that without the diversity that now exists, choice for all of us would be incredibly limited.

At the Commission for Racial Equality, we think the same way, that's why we're promoting Roots of the Future.

Roots Of The Future is an exciting initiative that we hope will reach just about everyone in Britain.

The aim is to show that an ethnically diverse Britain is a much better Britain. To illustrate that, despite discrimination and abuse, many people from all kinds of ethnic backgrounds are, despite the odds, succeeding in all walks of life.

We want the Roots Of The Future initiative to concentrate attention on the most positive aspects

of a multi-racial society.

We want people to learn about and understand other cultures and to realise and accept that different isn't better or worse - it's equal.

A travelling exhibition will reach the hundreds of thousands of people who visit arts and museum venues around the country. At the same time a colourful and informative book also called Roots Of The Future will be launched.

Amongst other things, the book charts the history of people who came to Britain from all over the world. How they survived, contributed, and how they continue to contribute, to our economic, cultural and social development and growth.



For details of how to get hold of a copy of the book Roots Of The Future please call 0181 986-4854, or for any other aspect of the initiative call the CRE on 0171 932-5207.



COMMISSION FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

Handwritten signature or stamp at the bottom center.

Partial view of another newspaper page on the right, containing text like 'Charities co of losing Queen of' and 'Origina Br...'. It also features a small portrait of a woman.

Diana effect was worth millions

Charities count cost of losing their Queen of Hearts

By Emma Wilkins and Kathryn Knight

FROM Help the Aged to the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association, the charitable world was in turmoil yesterday after the Princess of Wales's decision to renounce her patronage of 93 causes.

Officials at the Royal School for the Blind were particularly upset. They are launching a £2.25 million appeal next month, and must now rethink their strategy. The question of a replacement patron, possibly Prince Edward, will top the agenda at a trustees meeting tomorrow.

David Ireland, a spokesman, said he was puzzled by the Princess's withdrawal from so many charities, as it appeared to conflict with her publicly-stated desire to be a "Queen of Hearts".

The charity, based at Leatherhead, Surrey, recently changed its name to Seabability, and was among the first to secure the Princess's patronage in February 1982. The new appeal is to raise money to build the first home in Britain for Juvenile Batten's Disease, a genetically-inherited condition which leads to blindness and paralysis.

"We are bitterly disappointed," Mr Ireland said. "It's very unfortunate timing. We need a well-known name. It is a very sad day for us and the other charities."

"She does such a lot of good work through her magnetic quality. It has certainly been to our benefit. Most of her work with us was in the background, but she made two visits to our offices and always kept in touch. Just having her there as a figurehead was a comfort factor for us."

"At the offices of Turning Point, the drugs and alcohol dependency charity which the Princess joined as patron a decade ago, Ron Alexander said: "It's a big blow for us. She used to visit us once a month, and she gave private



Yeo: understood need to make fresh start

dinners to help raise our profile. It's been magic and we are very disappointed.

"We have got to rethink the whole business of who will be patron, but I think it will be another royal. She is certainly a megastar. The others are in a bit of a different league."

The Princess's support for Help the Aged over ten years helped to quadruple its income, according to John Mayo, its director-general. He was saddened by the decision but grateful for her past support.

At the Malcolm Sargeant Cancer Fund for Children, its chief executive Diane Yeo said: "I was surprised because the Princess had given me a private indication that she wanted to stay with her cancer charities. I can understand her reasons because when you get divorced, you want to make as fresh a start as possible. I just hope we can find another member of the Royal Family who wants to join us."

Mrs Yeo, whose husband Tim is a Conservative MP, added: "Her role with us was very quiet and behind-the-scenes. She didn't get actively involved in any of our high-profile galas."

At Headway, the head injuries charity where the Princess chose to announce her withdrawal from public life at their Christmas luncheon in 1993, the chairman Nigel Cuts said her presence at the event had brought a £37,000 net profit.

The following year, the Princess withdrew from the luncheon: "Our major sponsor then also withdrew and our net profit was only £5,000. You can see how direct an impact she has."

At the Benesh Institute of Choreology, which provides a system of dance notation for major ballet companies, officials said the Princess's presence at an event always doubled or tripled the revenue.

Dominic Jenkins, chief executive of the Ty Hafan hospice, has written to the Princess urging her to reconsider. During her year-long patronage, the Princess helped to raise £100,000 by persuading Luciano Pavarotti to give a fund-raising concert in Cardiff.

"The support of the Princess as an individual has been vital. I am absolutely certain the people of Wales would wish her to carry on. It is the Princess as a person, not the HRH title, that we want," Mr Jenkins said.

The British Red Cross said it had raised more than £95 million last year when the Princess was patron of its 125th Birthday Appeal. Relate, where the Princess has been patron since 1989, paid tribute to her work.

At Barnardo's, the senior director, Roger Singleton, said: "The Princess is closely associated with children and has often commanded mass attention when she speaks out on issues which affect them."

The English Women's Indoor Bowling Association was more sanguine. Margaret Ruff, secretary, said she was saddened, but the Princess's involvement had been limited: "I don't think it was really her sport."



WPC Elizabeth Fletcher with Beau, which she said was no threat to criminals

WPC given 'duff dog' claims sex discrimination

By Stephen Farrell

A FORMER policewoman yesterday claimed that she was deliberately given an incompetent police dog to ruin her career.

Elizabeth Fletcher, 43, accused Nottinghamshire police dog trainers of using the ploy to stop her joining the force's dog section.

She was twice knocked over by her German shepherd dog Beau, suffering injuries to her knees which forced her to retire through ill health. Mrs Fletcher is claiming compensation for sexual discrimination against the force and her trainer, PC David Brown.

The Nottingham tribunal was told that Beau became easily distracted while tracking suspects, did not bite hard enough to hold them and needed to be "twanged" on the muzzle with an elastic band to produce an aggressive response. "He was so hopeless that even criminals would have realised he was no threat," Mrs Fletcher said.

She claimed that officers, including PC Brown, saw her as less effective than male colleagues. She was the second woman to join the section and was at the time the only female among 32 handlers.

The first accident with Beau came a month into training when he pulled her over in a simulated chase. Inspector Peter Joyce, a retired instructor, told the hearing: "It would appear that Beau anticipated the exercise and upon seeing

the suspect became excited, lunged forward and pulled her on to the concrete kerb. For some reason she had held on to the lead."

He said that Beau had no more problems than other dogs and that the allegations were without foundation. "The job is difficult enough without the suggestion that anyone would allow any dog below the required standard to participate."

The second accident happened at a primary school display in June 1994, six months after the pair had passed the course and begun operational duties.

Jeremy Lewis, for Nottinghamshire police, claimed that PC Brown had gone out of his way to encourage and to praise Mrs Fletcher for her determination. He found it "not only pretty difficult but also pretty far-fetched" that PC Brown had deliberately given her a "duff dog".

PC Brown has since been removed from the dog section after another policewoman complained of discrimination. The tribunal was told. His lawyer, John Horan, said he was the innocent victim of malicious rumours.

Beau has been transferred to military duties and sent to the Royal Army Veterinary Corps Defence Animal Centre for training in bomb detection, drug-sniffing or tracking. The hearing continues.

Letters, page 17

ORGANISATIONS THAT WILL LOSE PATRONAGE

- The Albany, London (president).
- All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon (honorary member).
- American Friends of Covent Garden Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.
- Anglo-European College of Chiropractic, Bournemouth.
- Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, London.
- Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration (ASPIRE), Stanmore, northwest London.
- Australian Council on Smoking and Health.
- Australian Junior Red Cross.
- Douglas Baker Foundation.
- Barnardo's (president).
- Barnardo's Australia (royal president).
- Barnardo's New Zealand (international president).
- Benesh Institute of Choreology, west London.
- BOC Covent Garden Festival.
- British Accident Prevention Trust.
- British Lung Foundation.
- British Red Cross Society (vice-president and also patron of Red Cross Youth).
- British Sports Association for the Disabled.
- British Youth Opera, South Bank Polytechnic, south-west London.
- Canadian Red Cross Youth Services.
- Chester Summer Music Festival (joint patron).
- Chickenshire Theatre Company, Enfield, north London.
- Child Accident Prevention Trust.
- Children's Hospital Foundation Appeal, Australia (joint patron).
- Chipmunk Wildlife Trust, Bute-way, Zimbabwe.
- College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (royal hon fellow).
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (royal patron and hon fellow).
- Commonwealth Society for the Deaf.
- Covent Garden Festival, London.
- Disability Independence Association (president).
- Dystrophic Epidemiology & Bulbosa Research Association.
- English Women's Indoor Bowling Association.
- Eurokal The Children's Museum, (joint patron with the Prince of Wales), Halifax.
- Faculty of Dental Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (hon fellow).
- First International Covent Garden Festival (1990).
- Foundation for Conductive Education, Edgbaston.
- Friends of Freshfield Association, Truro.
- Friends of the Imperial War Museum, London (hon family member).
- Garden Festival Wales (joint patron).
- General Council and Registry of Osteopaths (president).
- Gloucestershire County Cricket Club.
- Guild of St Sebastian, Bruges (royal hon member).
- Guinness Trust, High Wycombe.
- Headway National Head Injuries Association, Nottingham.
- Help the Aged.
- Highland Yacht Club (hon member).
- Home-Start, Lakoslar.
- Honorable Society of The Middle Temple (Royal Master of the Bench).
- Huntingdon's Disease Association.
- Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence, central London.
- International Spinal Research Trust, Enfield, north London.
- London Symphony Chorus.
- London Symphony Orchestra.
- National Council for Child Health (Child 2000).
- National Children's Orchestra, Ashstead, Surrey.
- National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery Development Association, The National Hospital, London.
- National Rubella Council.
- National Meningitis Trust (president).
- Natural History Museum, London.
- New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Wellington.
- New Zealand Foundation for the Blind, Auckland.
- Newport International Competition for Young Pianists (joint patron).
- Ninth Congress of the European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.
- Northern Ireland Pre-School Playgroups Association, Belfast.
- Parkinson's Disease Society.
- Pied Piper Appeal, Gloucester.
- Pre-School Playgroups Association.
- Princess of Wales Children's Health Camp, Rotorua, New Zealand.
- Printers Charitable Corporation (vice-president).
- Royal Academy of Music, London.
- Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey.
- St Mary's Save the Baby Fund, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, Paddington.
- St Matthew Society, Norwich.
- Malcolm Sargeant Cancer Fund for Children.
- Scottish Pre-School Playgroups Association.
- Surgeons of Glasgow.
- Swansea Festival of Music and Arts.
- Trust for Sick Children in Wales, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff.
- Turning Point, west London.
- Tushnetskaya Children's Hospital Trust, Moscow.
- Variety Club of New Zealand.
- Wales Craft Council (president).
- Wales Pre-School Playgroups Association.
- Wallbeing, Regent's Park, London.
- Welsh Bowling Association.
- Welsh National Opera Ltd, Cardiff.
- World Junior Bridge Championships.
- Worshipful Company of Grocers (hon member).
- Worshipful Company of M3 chaut (hon member).

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For your security and to assist us in improving our services to you we may record or monitor all calls to Abbey National Direct. The above 6.25% Fixed Rate or 2% Discount each combined with a 2% Cashback are available to customers moving home who do not currently have a mortgage with Abbey National and where their deposit exceeds 40%. Other packages available depend on customer status, size of deposit and terms over which the special offer relates. See us branch for details. For the above fixed rate there is a non-refundable booking fee of £250 and completion must take place by 30.10.96. Completion for the above discounted variable rate and 5% cashback must take place by 27.12.96. All offers are subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. As a condition of the fixed rate, the mortgage must remain at the standard variable rate for the period of 1.9.98 to 31.8.2001. If you switch from the fixed rate before the end of the fixed period of 31.8.2001 the standard variable rate that will apply after the fixed period, or make capital repayments (except normal monthly payments on a repayment mortgage) before 31.8.2001, a charge of 150 days gross interest at the fixed rate on the amount transferred or repaid will be payable. Discounted Variable Rate mortgage: Typical example for a 2% discount on our Standard Variable Rate mortgage currently 7.04% 2.75% APR until 31.8.98: a couple (male and female) who currently do not have a mortgage with Abbey National, non-smokers, aged 29, applying for an endowment mortgage of £40,000 on a purchase price of £70,000 secured over 25 years. 300 monthly interest payments of £149.10 net of tax relief, plus the final repayment of £40,000 capital. 300 monthly endowment premiums of £58.22. Total amount payable £90,775.12. Includes £175 inspection fee, £55 deed and stamping fees charged on redemption, £117.50 legal fees and accrued interest of £27.62 assuming completion on 27.12.96. Example calculated at 5.04% for the full mortgage term 5.25% APR. No account has been taken of any change in interest rates. In this example from 1.9.98 our standard variable rate will apply, which is likely to result in an increase in your monthly repayments. A charge equivalent to the discount received will be made if the mortgage is redeemed, converted from variable rate terms or a capital repayment (except normal monthly repayments on a repayment mortgage) is made before 31.8.2001. In addition to the charge applying to the discount or fixed rate package a charge equivalent to the cashback received will be made if you repay the mortgage in part or in full before 31.8.2001. All APFs are typical and variable. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property and in the case of an endowment mortgage an endowment/IE policy for the amount of the advance and a charge over the policy. All loans subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under 18 years of age. A High Loan to Value Fee is required if the loan exceeds 75% of the property's valuation (or in certain cases the purchase price, whichever is lower). We require the property to be insured. If not insured through us, we reserve the right to charge an administration fee of £25. Written quotations are available on request. Rates correct at time of going to press. *As a percentage of the purchase price or valuation whichever is lower. Abbey National plc, which is regulated by the Personal Financial Services Authority, only sells its own life insurance, pension and unit trust products. Abbey National and the Unibrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6EX, United Kingdom.

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SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES



LUCY AND THE GIANT PEACH

How Roald Dahl's youngest daughter has seen her inheritance bloom, in the *Magazine*

PLUS

Weekend, Car 96, Weekend Money, 1015 for young *Times* readers, and *Vision*, the seven-day TV and radio guide

THE SEVEN-SECTION TIMES IS 40P ON SATURDAY

Exam boards urged to reinstate British history for GCSE

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PERSONAL appeal to save the study of British political history at GCSE was made to the examination boards by Nick Tate, the Government's curriculum chief, yesterday.

From September, key events such as the English Civil War and Henry VIII's reign are being dropped from GCSE syllabuses in favour of courses focusing on world history. They include topics such as the rise of America and Russia as superpowers, China in revolution and the demise of apartheid in South Africa.

Dr Tate, chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, is alarmed that the examination boards' decision means a generation of pupils will no longer follow GCSE courses that concentrate on British political history before 1900.

The most popular board for history GCSE, the Midlands Examining Group (MEG), is scrapping all five of its British history papers, which allowed

pupils to specialise on the medieval and Victorian periods, and the Tudors and Stuarts.

Mr Tate's concern is that the replacement courses call for little knowledge of the politics and personalities that make up Britain's heritage. The emphasis is being switched to global affairs and social and economic history.

The Southern Examining Group (SEG) is phasing out its two courses in Aspects of English History, 1509-1689 and 1815-1979, in favour of modern world history. It is retaining its popular syllabus in Aspects of British Social and Economic History.

The boards said yesterday there was not enough interest in British political courses to make them viable. Only 97 candidates took MEG's Tudors and Stuarts paper this year compared with 52,000 for world history; and 270 took SEG's 1509-1689 syllabus.

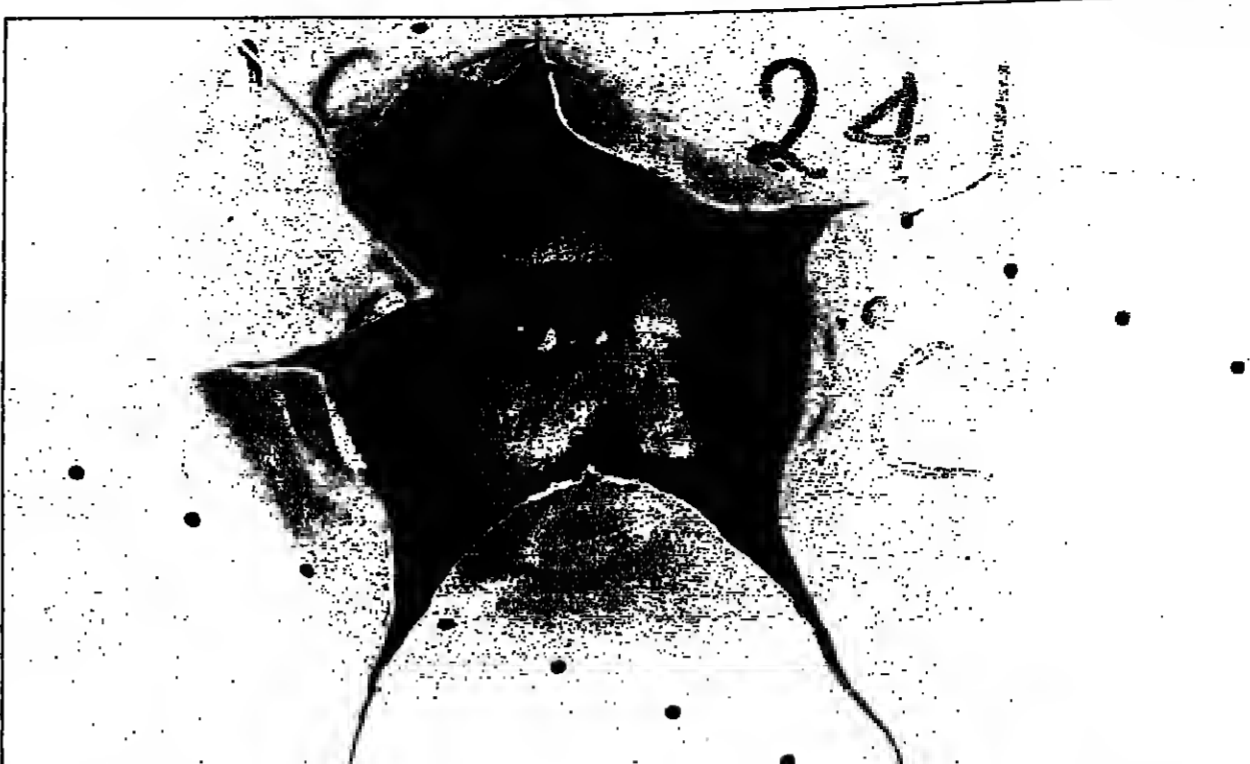
Dr Tate said he wanted the

boards to reconsider and continue to offer the courses as a public service. He said there was a precedent set by the boards when they agreed not to scrap GCSEs in Modern Hebrew and Polish after a similar appeal.

He was supported by Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History at Oxford University, who called the disappearance of British history courses "preposterous".

Kathleen Tattersall, director of the Joint Forum for the GCSE Boards, said: "The boards take their responsibility for providing an educational service seriously, but at the end of the day there is a very real issue as to whether we can continue to offer a syllabus if there are no candidates."

"You cannot separate the financial issues from the educational aspect. If people are not putting candidates forward, then we are not offering a public service anyway."



A scientist takes a close-up view of the kind of bomb damage he hopes to prevent in the fight against air terrorism. Chris Peel said yesterday that a lining of armour would strongly increase the chances of passenger jets surviving a Lockerbie-style explosion (Richard Duce writes).

The Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Farnborough has spent four years and £5 million developing a protective sleeve for cargo holds, made of

Jet body armour cuts bomb blasts

a material similar to Kevlar body armour used by the military and police. Explosives of different weights were set off inside the simulated holds of jumbo jets, which currently have only a 50 per cent chance of surviving such a blast. Profes-

sor Peel, a chief scientist on the project, said: "Where we used the hardened lining, there was effectively no damage. I believe we have pushed the chance of survival up to 75 or 80 per cent."

The lining, costing a few thousand pounds per aircraft, would add three tonnes in weight, requiring extra fuel at a cost of £750,000 over the 20-year life of a 747. Researchers want legislation to require the fitting of hardened material. The 1985 Lockerbie blast killed 270.

BBC chief's £35,000 rise draws union 'fat cat' jibe

By STEPHEN FARRELL

BROADCASTING unions have attacked the 13.2 per cent pay rise awarded to John Birt, the BBC's Director-General, which brings his salary to £299,495. The unions said yesterday that their members had been awarded a 2.6 per cent rise by the BBC, which had cut 850 jobs.

Mr Birt's £35,000 increase included a performance-related bonus of £24,000. The BBC also contributed £30,000 to his pension. Mr Birt is believed to be negotiating a further increase after his contract was extended for four years.

Gerry Morrissey, the chief negotiator of the Broadcasting, Entertainment, Cinematograph and Theatre Union, said: "Birt seems to be getting like one of these industry fat cats who earn their pay rises by ensuring others have no jobs or see their pay cut."

Sir Christopher Bland, the BBC's new chairman, claimed that the rise was in line with comparable broadcasting organisations and state bodies.

ITV has announced that it is to invest £100 million to make at least 50 British feature films over ten years.

Media, pages 22, 23

Parents say son, 2, will die without donor heart

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE parents of a two-year-old boy waiting for a heart transplant appealed for a donor yesterday after doctors said that he will die by the end of the week unless one can be found.

Ashley Taylor's heart failed last week after he survived three operations to remedy a congenital defect. His parents, Wayne and Kay, yesterday begged any parent whose child has just died to come forward. Kay, 27, of Telford, Shropshire, said: "Please can they think about giving another baby the gift of life? Ashley has spent most of his life in hospital... he could go any time and we do not know whether these are his last hours or not."

Ashley has already surprised doctors at the Children's Hospital (Birmingham) by surviving until now. He suffers from hypoplastic left heart syndrome, which results in loss of the blood supply because the only channel left open from the heart begins to close.

Mr Taylor, also 27, said: "He keeps telling us that it hurts him and looks at me as if to say that he wants me to make it all better and I know I can't."

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Church of I approves to non-sexi



600 after funeral of American Rothstein

Actor sues over firm of film blunderbu

Church of England approves prayers to non-sexist God

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is to remove references to God as male in its prayer book and to replace the words "fellow men" with "neighbour".

The changes were condemned by traditionalists as a move towards political correctness. Liturgists defended them, saying that in at least one case they took the Church closer to the original Latin meanings.

The General Synod, meeting in York, approved changes to the service for Holy Communion, introducing "neighbour" in the confession and "peace to His people on earth" to "peace to God's people on earth" in the Gloria.

In the eucharistic prayer, the response "It is right to give Him thanks and praise" is being changed to "It is right to give our thanks and praise". In the Creed, "men" is being deleted from "For us men and for our salvation".

The Right Rev Noel Debroj Jones, Bishop of Sodor and Man, said: "I do not want to get into any debate on gender, but I do believe here we are tending to be too politically correct in changing these texts." He said the call to confession, where a reference



Bishop Jones said the changes were not needed

to men at the end is being deleted, was being emasculated. But he reserved particular criticism for the change to the Gloria. Words were being changed unnecessarily "just to make a point".

Professor Arthur Pollard, former professor of English at Hull University, also criticised "inclusive language, which I deplore".

The Church's 1980 *Alternative Service Book* is being revised for 2000. Although there is a conscious attempt to use "inclusive language" in places, the revision shows a more conservative bent than expected.

Liturgists are determined not to make the mistakes of the past, when the loss of the

traditional language of the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer* was widely mourned.

In concessions to traditionalists, the revised prayer book will include for the first time the version of the Communion service that uses the language of Thomas Cranmer. The synod has rejected calls from more extreme exponents of inclusive language to change the Creed's reference to the incarnation from "and was made man" to "and became truly human".

The Rev John Broadhurst, a vicar in north London and a member of the committee that helped to produce the *Alternative Service Book* 16 years ago, said: "I think many of us thought we were new Cranmers. I am glad to see in this one we are getting rid of some of the nonsense we created. But I do think there are problems."

"Eucharistic worship is Trinitarian," he said in his valedictory speech after 24 years on the synod. "I am amazed that the classic greeting used by many of us — 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' — is not used."

Canon Bernice Broggio, from Southwark, one of the synod's leading feminists, said the inclusive language should have gone further to include



Two clergy taking a sunshine break from the synod. Their prayer book is being revised for the year 2000

references to Christ. "Doctrinally, linguistically and theologically, what we are meaning is that Christ was made human," she said.

Shirley Ann Williams, from Exeter, said the changes did not go far enough. She said the references to "men" that remain in the more traditional Rite B Communion service should be changed to "people". She rejected the argument

that "men" was an alternative term for "people". She said: "I do not like to be called a man. It denies my femininity, which I value. It also contradicts my knowledge of biology."

Canon Michael Perham, vice-dean of Norwich, who was proposing the changes, defended some of them as better translations of the original Latin texts. He conceded that "they embrace some of the concerns about gender inclu-

sive language" and admitted that the liturgists had "run into some trouble" over this. "For, within our own culture and our own Church, there is no consensus on this issue."

The changes will bring the eucharistic worship in the Church of England closer to the liturgies in the worldwide Anglican Church, as well as in the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches world-wide.

Liturgists in all the mainstream churches are working towards liturgies that are closer to the original biblical texts, and one result will be increasing similarities in services in different denominations, thus bringing them closer together.

Anglicans yesterday welcomed this as a means of enabling members of other denominations to feel at home, no matter where they might be worshipping.

Extra jab for young to prevent measles

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

EVERY pre-school child is to be offered a second vaccination against measles, mumps and rubella to eliminate the risk of epidemics, the Government announced yesterday.

From October, all children given pre-school boosters against diphtheria, tetanus and polio will also have a booster of the so-called MMR vaccine, in addition to the first dose which is offered to infants between 12-15 months.

Government scientists say the extra dose is necessary to keep the pool of children susceptible to measles at a minimum, following the success of the 1994 MMR campaign which almost eradicated the disease.

Between 92 and 93 per cent of children have their first dose of MMR by their second birthday, but the vaccine is not effective in all cases. About 10 per cent do not get protection from it, in addition to the 8 per cent who do not take up the offer of vaccination.

Scientists say that this means an accumulation of 100,000 unprotected children each year.

The total cost of the strategy, recommended by the advisory Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, which advises the Government, is estimated at £18 million in the first year, falling to £6 million in subsequent years.

600 attend funeral of Amschel Rothschild

By LIN JENKINS

THE family and friends of Amschel Rothschild, the financier who was found hanged in a Paris hotel last week, gathered for his funeral yesterday.

About 600 mourners attended the service at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery in Willesden, north London, where he was buried in a private plot. They included William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage; Alan Yentob, the BBC director of programmes; Bill Wyman, the former Rolling Stone; and Anna Ford, the newscaster.

The family mourners were led by Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N M Rothschild, and Lord Rothschild, Amschel's half-brother Jacob.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger, a family friend, conducted the private service. Speaking of Mr Rothschild, who was chairman of Rothschild Asset Management, she said: "His friendship is irreplaceable and it is devastating for his family."

As she directed her gaze at his widow Anita, 38, and children, Kate, 13, Alice, 12, and James, 11, she said: "You were the focus of his life." She said he was known for his "elegance, charm and delight in often very silly jokes." She added: "He was a respected City banker, he was a man of loyalty, a country-life lover and a generous host. He was also a devoted friend. The sense of loss will never heal."

The service was conducted in English and Hebrew and relayed through speakers to an overflow outside. Mourners then followed the oak coffin to the grave, where they recited the Jewish prayer for the dead.

Mr Rothschild, 41, was found dead in his room at the Hotel Bristol while on business in Paris. French investigators concluded that he had committed suicide.

Actor sues over firing of film blunderbuss

By A STAFF REPORTER

A 72-YEAR-OLD actor who claims that his hearing was damaged after an ancient blunderbuss was fired on a film set is suing for £100,000 damages. Graham Stark, who says that the accident cost him several offers of work, is taking action against Robin Crichton, a film director, and Edinburgh Film and Video Productions.

At the Court of Session, Edinburgh — Scotland's supreme civil court — Judge John Wheatley, QC, ruled that a hearing of evidence should take place at a date to be fixed. Mr Stark, of Ninemileburn, by Fenwick, Lothian, and appeared in

Appeal over police cell death fails

A restaurant owner who claimed police framed him over a man's death has lost his appeal. Malcolm Kennedy, 48, had been arrested for drunkenness and held in a cell with Patrick Quinn, 56, in Hammersmith, west London. Quinn was found kicked to death.

In 1991, Kennedy, of Stoke Newington, north London, was jailed for life, but the Court of Appeal ordered a retrial, which convicted him of manslaughter with a nine-year sentence. That was upheld at the Court of Appeal.

Postal strike plea

The Royal Mail is advising customers not to post letters today or tomorrow to prevent a backlog of mail caused by tomorrow's planned walkout by postal workers. No talks are scheduled between the two sides and three further strikes are planned.

VC auctioned

A Victoria Cross awarded to General Sir Charles Gough in recognition of four acts of bravery during the Indian Mutiny sold for £41,400 at Spink's in London to an anonymous bidder. The family is unique in that three Goughs were awarded VCs.

Dickens portrait

The earliest-known portrait of Charles Dickens, handed over as security for a £10 loan 50 years ago and never reclaimed, was sold to a Mayfair antiques dealer for £14,375 at Phillips in London. Dickens posed for the watercolour when he was 15.

Briefs in news

Dolores O'Riordan, singer with the Cranberries pop group, accepted undisclosed damages in the High Court over a claim in the *Daily Star* that she went on stage without her briefs. In April the *Daily Sport* had to apologise over a similar allegation.

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Shrinking role could put financing of higher education and contributory benefits in private hands

Mandarin outline plans for a united states of Britain

REPORTS BY PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

PREPARATIONS for a radical retrenchment in the role of the state, on the lines put forward by the American Republicans, have been drawn up by Treasury officials as the Government's most powerful department readies itself for the next millennium.



Gingrich: his vision for US provided blueprint

In a report to Sir Terence Burns, the Treasury Permanent Secretary, his senior officials look at ways to manage public spending if there are no radical changes in the responsibilities of the state, and at what a reduced state might imply for the Treasury.

The document does not explicitly consider "how a different administration would deal with the tasks, but it does consider alternative policy options. Several, notably those on the decentralisation of powers from Whitehall, would find more favour with Labour. A section of the document, called *Strategic Considerations for the Treasury*, which has been obtained by *The Times*, looks at how the Republican proposals could be implemented in the United Kingdom, although the Treasury team admits that the US plan "has not progressed as they hoped and in the more liberal culture would probably meet even greater resistance".

The document says the Government is considering cutting state support for further and higher education on the grounds that rising demand is "unaffordable and private returns to individuals and their employers exceed social returns".

Funding of sixth-forms and universities could be by financing individuals with vouchers, grants, loans and employer contributions. The Treasury team looks at decentralising powers to local authorities, in line with the Republican call to decentralise to the American states, but it says that councils' powers could be reduced in the areas of education and roads.

It suggests that primary and secondary education could be delivered by central government, perhaps through compulsory opt-out, abolition of LEAs and a central agency to administer student grants. "This would virtually halve the size of local government by removing its single biggest function."

The report discloses that a further proposal already under consideration is treating roads as a utility rather than a public service. Ownership would be transferred to regulated private companies which would receive their income from road-users.

Other measures suggested include giving local authorities responsibility for the business rate and functions currently run by regional offices of central departments, such as environment, transport and trade and industry.

prevent fighting between departments.

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Other measures suggested include giving local authorities responsibility for the business rate and functions currently run by regional offices of central departments, such as environment, transport and trade and industry. More radically, the report raises the prospect of giving local authorities more powers over the provision of health and social security services, such as full responsibility for provisions for disabled people.

Of more attraction to a Labour government would be the suggestions of increasing the powers of councils to raise more finance through local taxes, on the German model.

Leading article, page 17



Odds against joining single currency before millennium

THERE is a less than 50 per cent chance of the United Kingdom joining a single European currency in 1999 under a Labour or Conservative government, the senior Treasury officials conclude.

They say that early entry would be the best option for the City, but describe this as an improbable eventuality. "City interests are unlikely to drive this policy," the Treasury document says in a reference to divisions in the two main parties over joining a single currency.

The document says that the advent of the single currency and the uncertainties about whether, when and how this would be implemented, are "the single biggest challenge" facing the Treasury today. Irrespective of whether the UK eventually joins a currency, the biggest change foreseen in Treasury work is a big rise in the number of policies formulated at European level.

The Treasury believes that the case for an independent Bank of England will be strengthened if the UK does not go into a single currency because it will be seen as a way of giving credibility to a more rigorous anti-inflation policy. This is the "main alternative scenario" to membership of the single currency.

One possible formula is the New Zealand system, under which the Treasury would set policy objectives and the Bank would be contracted to deliver, but the Bank would have the freedom to determine interest rates in order to meet the objectives set for it.

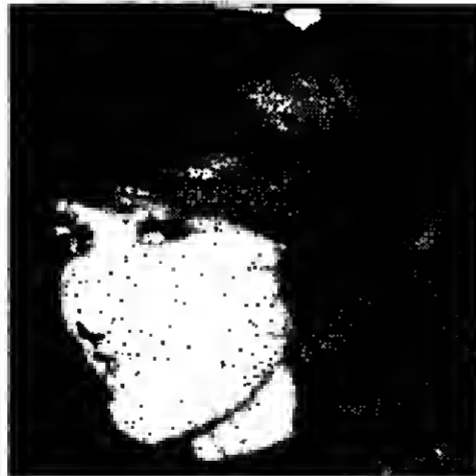
The document says there are three ways forward on tax and spending policies if the UK joins a single currency: national independence and flexibility; the German-backed rules approach under which countries will face penalties if they fail to keep their public-sector deficits below 3 per cent of gross domestic product or fiscal union.

NOTICE PLACED BY THE LONDON PENSIONS FUND AUTHORITY

APOLOGY

by the London Pensions Fund Authority to Patricia May Eaton

Following the demise of the Inner London Education Authority (the ILEA) on 31 March 1990 and by the passing to the London Pensions Fund Authority (the Authority) on 1 April 1992 of all the functions, rights and liabilities of the London Residuary Body which relate to, or arise from, any contract of employment with the ILEA, the Authority took over the Defence of an action which had been commenced by Miss Patricia Eaton for damages for breach of contract against the ILEA and Mr David Mallen (the last Education Officer of the ILEA) and, in 1993, became a Defendant, again alongside Mr Mallen, in a second action commenced by Miss Eaton for damages for personal injury arising out of her employment with the ILEA. A full and intensive review of the documentation surrounding her complaints has made the Authority and Mr Mallen aware of the following matters:



- that there was serious mismanagement of the issues arising out of the events which led Miss Eaton successfully to bring defamation proceedings in the High Court against Mr Terry Horsley in 1983;
- that there was a failure by the ILEA to address Miss Eaton's legitimate grievances concerning the mismanagement of those issues either by instituting disciplinary procedures or otherwise;
- that Miss Eaton's professional reputation, career and status have all been irretrievably damaged by that mismanagement and that failure to the extent that she was deprived of her employment and suffered severe harm to her health and future prospects;
- that the failure to address Miss Eaton's legitimate grievances was a source of great sadness to her mother while alive;
- that the failure to address Miss Eaton's grievances continued and was exacerbated by the withdrawal from her in January 1990 of a Special Enquiry that had been promised to her as a means of addressing those grievances;
- that Miss Eaton should have been accorded sight of the report prepared by Ms. Marion Stoddley in March 1990 without the need for her to have commenced proceedings in the High Court to secure sight of the same; and
- that her distress has been exacerbated by the need to pursue court proceedings in order to secure redress and acknowledgement of the wrongs done to her.

The Authority offers to Miss Eaton their apology without reservation for all the above and especially for the distress and vexation which was occasioned to her mother in the last years of her life and express the hope that such apology, coupled with the payment to her of a significant sum in damages, will go some way to restoring Miss Eaton's health and professional reputation.

THE ABOVE WAS READ OUT AS A STATEMENT IN THE HIGH COURT ON 24 JUNE 1996.

Closing ranks on open government

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE authors of the confidential report admit, with obvious discomfort, that Parliament's demands for information are likely to increase and that the drive towards greater accountability will gather momentum.

Plaintively, they write in their report: "We would not be able to rewrite or edit papers or filter files as now." And, with the advent of computer technology, the Treasury would no longer be able to claim high costs as an argument for not making information publicly available.

"As the costs of supplying information fall, it becomes harder to justify not doing so." The report paints a heart-rending picture of a Treasury misunderstood and disliked, not only by the public but also by fellow Whitehall departments. Treasury ministers and officials "find it difficult to engage in a constructive dialogue" with a "very sophisticated" adversary, such as the Foreign Office.

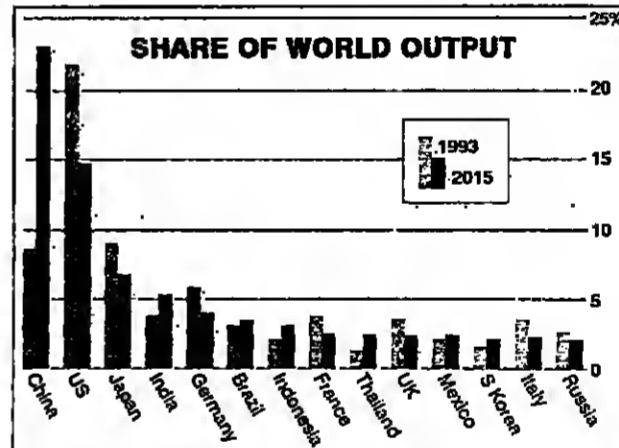
Confirming widespread criticism about the slow pace of movement towards greater openness, the authors say the Government has been "moving cautiously to provide more information and accountability". However, they breathe a sigh of relief as they list a string of Treasury exemptions to the Government's code of practice ensuring wider access to information. "All of these provide great protection to the Treasury at the moment."

The report claims that ministers and officials had made some progress in publishing details on economic forecasts and monthly meetings between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England. But in an apparent effort to pre-empt the zealous intrusion of MPs into Treasury affairs, the report suggests improved contacts with chairmen of some Commons select committees.

It also lends support to Labour's proposals to publish a "Green Budget" in which taxation and spending proposals would be made available for wider consultation outside government. Labour's plans for a freedom of information act would send shock waves through Whitehall, but the Treasury report reassures colleagues that in other countries "special exemptions are given for much economic and financial data".

Listing a string of exemptions contained in Australian and New Zealand freedom of information legislation, the authors add: "We would of course want to ensure any legislation of ours included similar caveats."

There is a warning that ministers and officials might have to go beyond disclosing selected information and divulge entire documents. "When advice was given, the possibility that it might be published at a later date would have to be taken into account."



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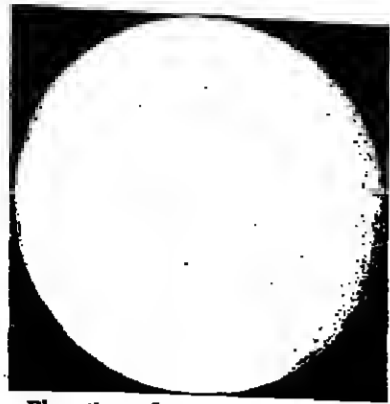
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Scientists launch missions to find landing sites on Mars



By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FOUR missions are expected to be sent to Mars as part of a long-term plan to colonise it. Two decades after the first spacecraft was sent to the red planet, three international missions are expected to return this year to map the Martian weather of dust and ice clouds, and another is planned for 1998.

The projects, led by America and Russia and including scientists from across Europe, hope to find areas of Martian surface which are stable enough to support a space base. One of the priorities is a study of the Martian south pole where,

it is hoped, vast quantities of water are trapped in the form of ice or permafrost.

Dr Richard Zurek, of the Joint Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the researcher heading the Mars Surveyor 98 Mission, said yesterday: "If you want to put people on Mars and manufacture fuels, you need to know where the water is."

Details of the missions were disclosed at the two-yearly meeting of the Committee on Space Research, an international gathering of about 2,000 scientists at Birmingham University. Dr Arden Albee of the California Institute of Technology, also in Pasadena, said the first launch was scheduled for November. It will take about

eight months to arrive at the red planet which, at its closest to Earth, is 40 million kilometres away, where the craft will go into orbit over the Martian poles. The surveyors' cameras will map the surface in unprecedented detail, and other instruments will monitor weather and atmosphere.

The second launch is of a large Russian craft called Mars 96. It is employing two landers and two "penetrators" shaped like golf tees and the size of big dinner tables. The landers will be parachuted down to the surface and will monitor the weather a few metres above the ground. The penetrators will study soils and monitor seismic activity. Possibly the most ambi-

ous mission is called Pathfinder, another American-led programme due to be launched in December. "It is an engineering experiment to look at new ways of putting landing craft on the surface," Dr Albee said. The mission will deploy tiny weather stations and a remote-controlled rover, the size of a toy, which will roam the planet surface, taking pictures with its camera.

The final mission is the Mars surveyor 1998. It will deploy another landing craft with a robot arm near the south pole. It will dig a trench through the dust and ice to discover how hard the surface is and at what depth ice can be found.

Dr Zurek said the four missions were

vital in the push to put a man on Mars and, one day, possibly transform the planet into a place habitable for humans.

"The most optimistic date of putting a man on Mars is 2020," he said.

Scientists claim to have found evidence of ice on the moon, it was disclosed at the Committee on Space Research meeting in Birmingham. The existence of water could help turn the moon into a giant launchpad from mankind could fly to colonise the solar system and galaxies beyond.

Researchers have suggested it is cheaper to build machines and launch craft in near-zero gravity. Water is crucial as transporting large quantities of water from Earth would be extremely expensive.

Airport expansion threatens ruin of Domesday villages

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A GROUP of Essex villages mentioned in the Domesday Book lost their battle in the High Court yesterday to halt housing development which they fear will destroy their rural character.

The parish councils of Birchanger, Felsted, Little Dunmow and Takeley say that the planned 2,500 homes for the growing workforce of Stansted airport amount to "development vandalism".

George Bartlett, QC, the Recorder, giving his judgment in the High Court, refused their plea to quash the provision for the developments in the local council plan and to order a second planning inquiry.

Afterwards the parish councils said that their villages — in an area noted for its half-timbered cottages, duck ponds and village greens — will be lost forever. Andrew Warren, chairman of the Felsted and Little Dunmow Conservation Society, and the parish coun-

cils brought the action against Unlesford District Council. He said: "These are Domesday Book villages. It is, effectively, doomsday for them. It effectively urbanises one of the few rural areas remaining in the South East."

The judgment opens the way for developers to build 650 homes at Felsted sugar beet works, 825 homes at Takeley, 400 at Rochford Nurseries in Stansted Mountfichet, and 625 at Buildings Farm, Great Dunmow. The houses, to be constructed at the turn of the century, are intended for up to 14,500 workers as the airport expands to handle 15 million passengers a year.

The parishes complained that the villages had unlawfully been denied the opportunity to give evidence at the original planning inquiry in 1993 which centred on a single-site development at a disused airfield site at Easton Park, near Great Dunmow. The inquiry

came down firmly in favour of dispersal over a number of sites.

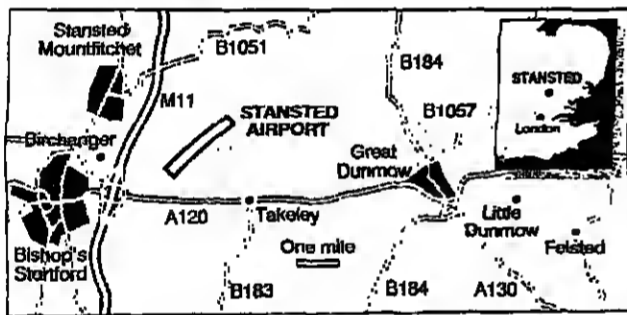
Mr Bartlett acknowledged that villagers had been "accorded less than equitable treatment" but concluded that it was "wholly improbable" that a future inquiry would come to a different decision.

Mr Warren said the judgment raised a serious question mark over the public inquiry system, which had excluded those most affected by the development. The parish councils are considering whether to appeal but cost could rule it out. The failed action has already cost them tens of thousands of pounds.

Alan Dean, leader of Unlesford council, said he was relieved that, after six years of wrangling, the council could push on with implementing its plan.

Jilly Cooper, the bestselling novelist and journalist, has joined a campaign to stop two new town developments in the Cotswolds, developments at Standish, near Stroud, and at Boddington, near Tewkesbury, form part of the provision for 53,000 new homes in Gloucestershire by 2011.

Ms Cooper, who lives near Bisley, has complained to Gloucestershire County Council that her village has already suffered from an "ill thought-out" development at nearby Eastcombe. She says the new plan could ruin the county.



Police and security men were out in force yesterday to head off possible disruption of Operation Mollusc by Newbury bypass protesters

Big security operation proceeds at snail's pace

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WORKMEN protected by police and security guards yesterday launched Operation Mollusc, which will culminate in the removal of a rare species of snail from the path of the Newbury bypass.

Some 1,000 square metres of sedge, grass and wet turf is being transferred from a site near Bagnor on the River Lambourn and being taken a

mile and a half south to create a new habitat for Desmoulin's whorl that will be watered by the River Kennet.

About 50 police officers, some mounted, reinforced by 70 security men hired by the Government's Highways Agency, were on hand to prevent disruption by a group of 40 protesters opposed to the bypass.

The transfer of the snails themselves is expected to begin in a few weeks. Their present site on the banks of

the Lambourn will be obliterated by the supports of the bridge that will carry the bypass, due to be opened in 1998, over the river.

English Nature, the Government's conservation adviser, has given its blessing to the relocation of the snails, even though their new home will lie only 15 metres from the edge of the bypass. A special porous asphalt will reduce harmful spray from vehicles.

Simon Festing, of Friends of the Earth, which has cam-

paigned strongly against the bypass, said: "There is little chance the snails will survive in their new habitat. Where the snails live now is a complete micro-ecology with its own climate and temperature. It cannot be recreated in this crude way."

The environmental pressure group failed recently in an 11th-hour attempt to persuade the High Court to grant an injunction suspending work on the bypass because of the threat to the snail.



Desmoulin's whorl: being moved 1 1/2 miles

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Holding	Rate of Interest
under £25,000	6.0% pa
£25,000 and over	6.25% pa

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Balance in account	Rate of interest
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£25,000 and over	5.5% pa

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

On and from 1 August 1996 the variable rates of interest on deposits in an Ordinary Account will be as follows:

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Scientists' report raises new fear for beef deal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

THE safety of British beef by-products was thrown into question again yesterday when the European Commission reported scientific doubts about the conditions under which Britain is to be allowed to resume exports after a hard-fought agreement last month.

Franz Fischler, the Agriculture Commissioner, reported that "the whole issue of gelatine" was to be re-examined today by a new multi-disciplinary committee which was created to handle the BSE emergency. He was addressing the European Parliament after MEPs expressed their anger over the disclosure of an old Commission memo that reported an alleged decision to stifle news of the epidemic.

Although gelatine and tallow, the two main by-products, are not yet back on the export market, the fresh doubts about their safety are a blow to Britain because the decision to lift the ban on them was deemed a breakthrough in the campaign to end the whole embargo. Britain launched its non-cooperation campaign when EU officials initially refused to lift the ban, claiming the by-products

could be infected. Germany and other European states have continued to insist on the possible risks from the by-products despite the easing of the ban, taken after a narrow majority supported the action. Officials said a scientific committee had found evidence to suggest that gelatine could still carry the infective agent for BSE when treated at the temperatures imposed in the deal with Britain. Other meth-

Germany's refusal to ease any aspect of the beef embargo. Bonn is heading for a collision with the Commission and Britain over its continuing blanket ban.

Continuing passions over the beef affair were on display in the Strasbourg Parliament yesterday as Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, struggled to quell the indignation of MEPs over the 1990 note in which a Brussels

level report on the meeting, Mr Santer said. Other officials at the meeting had denied the truth of his account, he added.

Styling themselves the guardians of the European consumer, MEPs from every main group accused the Commission of sins ranging from incompetence to deliberate obfuscation because it had failed to lead an adequate campaign against BSE. The far-right French National Front likened the Commission to "one of history's great poisoners of humanity". The "mad cow" disease epidemic was the consequence of the lust for unrestricted free trade, one MEP said.

In angry mood, several parties called for an official inquiry, although it was unclear whether there was enough support for this.

The dominant Socialist group said the note was "the quintessence of everything that the public finds wrong with the Commission."

Graham Watson, a British Liberal Democrat MEP, rounded on the British Government, saying "the cover-up of this issue has been the UK's Chernobyl."

It is possible that we will have to increase standards before allowing exports of by-products to resume

ods might have to be sought to neutralise the agent, they said.

"The issue is partly academic because there is no sign that the manufacturers of gelatine in Britain are close to meeting the standards we set in June," a Commission spokesman said. "But it is now possible that we will have to increase those standards before allowing exports to resume."

The latest worry over the by-products is certain to bolster

official reported an alleged decision to play down BSE disease through "disinformation".

Mr Santer reported that his inquiry had shown that the note, which was disclosed in France last month, gave a false account of a veterinary committee meeting in October 1990. Its author, Gilbert Castille, an official who has now retired, had been reflecting a personal bias in a low-



The Pope takes a walk through a valley in the Dolomite mountains yesterday during a holiday break. He is spending the time at Lorenzago di Cadore, north Italy, and will not return to the Vatican until next Tuesday

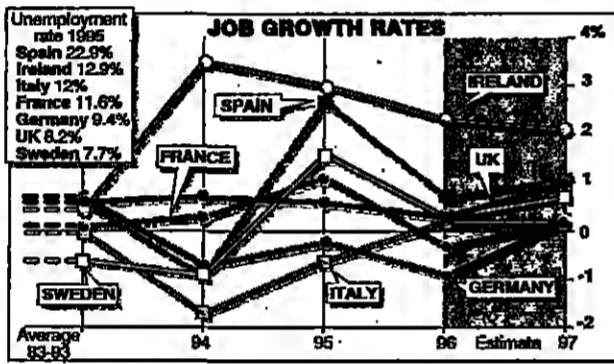
Delors vision for jobs fails to get Europe on its bike

BY GEORGE BROCK
EUROPEAN EDITOR

SHORTLY before he retired, Jacques Delors had urged the leaders of the European Union to launch a crusade against unemployment before the end of the century.

The former President of the European Commission carpet-bombed several summit meetings with fearsome graphs showing that both the United States and Asia create many more jobs than EU economies during both good times and bad. Europe should set itself a target, M Delors said, of creating 15 million new jobs by 2000.

Although dribs and drabs of M Delors' ideas survive,



his "White Paper" designed to get Europe on its bike made no dent in the numbers. When M Delors rolled his ideas out, average unemployment was 11.5 per cent; it is almost exactly the same now. Eu-

rope's dole queue is 18-million people long.

As cash-strapped governments slash their welfare states to qualify for European monetary union, a fatalistic mood has taken over. "Future societ-

ies will have to get used to this, rather than chasing an unattainable level of employment for all," Johannes Gross, a German commentator, said.

M Delors failed for reasons which explain the latest job-growth figures published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development this week. European leaders such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, shy away from expensive public projects. Despite declarations that unemployment is a common problem, EU governments compete against each other to show that their policies best meet the need.

The award for the fastest growth rate goes to Ireland: 3 per cent last year. But the

Irish labour force is expanding fast and, the OECD says, unemployment there will be 12.2 per cent at the end of next year. Spain suffers from the same problem.

Britain outperforms its larger EU partners. The net job creation rate is high and looks set to remain so. Although the OECD has quarrelled with British methods of counting the unemployed in the past, it underwrites the Tory claim that Britain has the lowest rate of unemployment in any major EU economy. Only Sweden, the Netherlands and Portugal are around the same level.

"The UK does show pretty steady progress, and I don't see any sign of a downturn,"

Pam Meadows, director of the Policy Studies Institute, said of the new figures. "Germany and France don't get the same sort of job growth. Unemployment in those two countries ratchets itself upwards in each recession. France has seen very few new jobs for a long time, even though the economy's output is high."

The political battle will be over whether inequality or unemployment is the greater danger to social stability in Europe. The OECD's *Employment Outlook* warns that inequality in Britain and America threatens their fabric. British and US politicians reply that an EU jobless rate of more than 11 per cent is the real culprit.

Málaga hit by fourth Eta bomb in four days

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

A BOMBING campaign by the Basque separatist group Eta, intended to damage tourism in Andalusia, gathered pace yesterday with an explosion in a shopping centre in Málaga.

The attack, unlike previous Eta bombs, occurred without warning. The bomb, the eighth in the southern Spanish province in six days — and the fourth in Málaga since Saturday — exploded in a lavatory in a city centre gallery of shops. No one was injured and damage was minimal. During its summer bomb-

ing campaign in Andalusia, Eta has also exploded bombs at the popular tourist resort of Almuñécar on the Costa del Sol, the *parador* at Jaén, and outside the Alhambra in Granada.

The Andalusia campaign is designed to create fear at a time when the region has thousands of foreign visitors, many from Britain.

Police yesterday defused an explosive device in Pamplona, a day before the Tour de France passes through the northern Spanish town. Eta has threatened to disrupt the bicycle race.

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Gore declares Yeltsin in good health at talks

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN confounded speculation about his health by appearing his normal self when he met Al Gore, the US Vice-President, yesterday in the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow.

The mystery of why Mr Yeltsin had cancelled their meeting on Monday at an hour's notice, unsettling world stock markets, remained unsolved. Mr Gore diplomatically brushed it aside as a routine change of plan.

A bank of cameras studied the Russian President for any signs of ill health. But as the two men sat opposite each other and chatted for 45 minutes, Mr Yeltsin looked no worse than he has on many occasions over the past few years. He walked a little stiffly and was puffy in the face, but smiled broadly and spoke clearly.

"He looks very good to me," Mr Gore said afterwards, anticipating reporters' questions. "He seemed to be in good health, relaxed, smiling and seemed very actively engaged in the subjects we

discussed," the Vice-President said, adding that they had held an in-depth discussion on global and bilateral issues.

The cancelled meeting will now turn into just another of the mysterious episodes which have dogged Mr Yeltsin for the past three years and have persuaded some observers that he is seriously ill.

The press has not been able to see Mr Yeltsin in a spontaneous setting for almost a month. But in time-honoured Kremlin fashion, his aides have insisted only that he is "very tired" after a stressful election campaign and is taking a two-week holiday before his inauguration on August 9.

Mr Yeltsin's choice of a sanatorium as his holiday location however suggests that he is undergoing some kind of medical treatment and there is even speculation that he may undergo open-heart surgery some time later this year.

In an atmosphere of mutual cosiness Mr Gore warmly congratulated Mr Yeltsin on his election victory and on his "dancing technique", a refer-

ence to the Russian leader's lively performance on the campaign trail.

In response Mr Yeltsin said that it was a "common victory" for democracy. President Clinton made little secret of his support for Mr Yeltsin in the presidential election.

Many Russian liberal politicians had been hoping that Mr Gore would take a tough position on the recent military escalation in Chechnya and the bombing of villages. However his statement was vague: Mr Gore said only that he had urged Mr Yeltsin to restart the negotiation process and that he believed the issue could not be solved militarily.

Mr Gore said the details of the discussions were confidential. "I believe that the interests of the Russian and Chechen people would be best served by a return to the ceasefire arrangement and to the conditions negotiated about a month ago," he said.

The situation in Chechnya has deteriorated further with the shooting by soldiers of at least 13 people in three cars on

the edge of Grozny on Monday night.

A crowd of women demonstrated outside the headquarters of the local Moscow-backed Government demanding that the perpetrators be punished.

Yesterday Anatoli Kulikov, the Russian Interior Minister, said that he had evidence that the two explosions on Moscow buses had been planned in Chechnya. He said his men had intercepted a telephone conversation in Chechnya between two men discussing the bombings. He added that the operation to attack separatist rebels would continue.

Mr Gore and Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, who are co-chairmen of a joint commission on economic and scientific co-operation, signed 27 documents yesterday covering areas such as early warning about industrial and natural disasters, reducing emissions of "greenhouse gases", joint climatic research and construction of the International Alpha space station.



President Yeltsin and Vice-President Al Gore meet at a Moscow sanatorium yesterday

Ukraine leader survives car bomb

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN KIEV

UKRAINE'S Prime Minister, Pavlo Lazarenko, escaped an assassination attempt with only slight injuries yesterday when a bomb exploded under his car.

The blast occurred as Mr Lazarenko was on his way to Kiev airport. He was treated for a shoulder injury. Two guards in an accompanying car also suffered slight injuries, according to officials.

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack.

An Interior Ministry official, who declined to be identified, said the bomb was planted in a drain and detonated by remote control as the car drove past. Police investigators said the bomb exploded while Mr Lazarenko's car was swerving to pass a passenger bus, which significantly diminished the impact of the explosion.

Mr Lazarenko left the capital an hour after the incident, travelling to the eastern city of Donetsk to negotiate with striking coalminers.



Aldrich: made security checks on staff

Clinton employees were drug takers

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration admitted yesterday that 21 employees were allowed to work at the White House even though their background checks showed recent or extensive drug use.

At the insistence of the Secret Service, which guards the President, the 21 had to submit to a drug-testing programme. None tested positive. The programme was set up two years ago and nine of the 21 who are still at the White House continue to be subject to special testing.

The admissions verify concerns raised by Gary Aldrich, the former FBI agent at the White House who has just published a venomous book about President and Mrs Clinton and their aides. Mr Aldrich was in charge of checks for new employees and has asserted that their ranks included drug-takers among "Clintonites".

The issue is a gift for Republicans who can turn it into an election issue with bumper stickers along the lines of: "No more Druggies in the White House". Many Americans are unlikely to be sympathetic to the idea that recent drug-users can get jobs on the public payroll at the White House, which is supposed to exemplify national pride and dignity.

Mike McClary, Mr Clinton's spokesman, emphasised that none of the 130 senior aides to the President was implicated. About 1,700 people work at the White House.

Overdose boost for film from Britain

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A ROCK 'n' roll drugs scandal and the arrival in Manhattan of a shipment of unusually deadly heroin seem to have assured success in America for the British film *Trainspotting*.

The film, which portrays life among Edinburgh drug addicts, opens in New York this weekend. Its US distributor, Miramax, is speaking about takings of \$20 million (nearly £13 million).

There has not been as much interest here in a British film since *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, although that could not have portrayed a more different picture of modern Britain. *Trainspotting*, which cost only \$2.5 million to make, has been seized on by the metropolitan media as the clever thing to like this summer.

An unpleasant rock music death last weekend did the film no harm. Jonathan Melvoin, a keyboard player touring with the hit group Smashing Pumpkins, dispatched himself by taking an overdose of a new type of heroin which has arrived in New York. It is called Red Rum ("murder" spelt backwards) and is 70 per cent pure. Melvoin's death has not caused a slump in the demand for drugs. On Manhattan's Lower East Side, described as the "world capital of heroin", there has been a sharp increase in the number of young people looking for the high-grade Red Rum. If it was strong enough to kill a rock musician, it must be good, goes the theory.

Amid such macabre excitement, *Trainspotting* should rocket. Anti-drugs campaigners have added to the pre-release hype by deploring the "glamorisation" of heroin. Dr Paul Salkin, of the Psychiatric Association's Treatment and Consultation Centre, said: "These movies have a powerful effect on susceptible adolescents and damaged adults."

The first 20 minutes of the film's soundtrack were re-recorded to help US audiences to cope with the Scottish dialogue.

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QUOTING REF: 03006/1996

Second mass grave in Bosnia to be opened this week

UNITED NATIONS workers will open a mass grave this week at Nova Kasaba, in an area where up to 2,700 massacred Muslims are believed to have been hurriedly buried after the fall of Srebrenica.



Anthony Loyd reports from Cerska on the grim tasks facing war crimes investigators uncovering the remains of thousands of Muslim victims

A test dig of the site last month revealed six bodies dumped on top of one another, two with their hands bound, one with its skull crushed. Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, said earlier this year that satellite photographs indicated up to 2,700 victims were buried in graves along a valley near Nova Kasaba, 19 miles northwest of Srebrenica. The UN team hopes to have finished work at a site in Cerska, near Srebrenica, by tomorrow, having opened up a mass grave there on Monday. So far the remains of 75 men have been exhumed from this first site, and investigators believe another 30 to 40 are still to be recovered there. Once all the bodies have been exhumed, they will be taken to a mortuary in Tuzla for identification and examined by pathologists to gather further evidence for the war crimes tribunal in The Hague.



Haglund presides over team of specialists

Between 3,000 and 8,000 men are believed to have been killed and buried in mass graves around eastern Bosnia after the former Muslim-majority town fell to the Serbs on July 11 last year.

"It will take months, years, to identify the bodies," Dr William Haglund, head of the UN team, said. "Many will never be identified."

The work is daunting. For one black American soldier serving with the international implementation force, patrolling the Cerska site proved too much as night fell. From Mississippi, he had voodoo beliefs and the fears aroused by the skulls and bones were something that no M16 could deal with. It was not until his sergeant, a Vietnam veteran, ordered him out of the sanctuary of a Humvee that he stood guard on the track along the bodies.

The Serbs in eastern Bosnia have their own cult of the dead. Villagers around Srebrenica still believe in vampires and ghosts. Hun-

some point, this man had been bound with wire to a small concrete pillar near the verge, presumably to have something done to him with knives. The investigators digging at Cerska are pragmatic and compassionate. Drawn from Physicians for Human Rights, a Boston-based organisation that brings together specialists — archaeologists, doctors, anthropologists, pathologists, mine experts — the small team works with sensitivity. "These are the dead," Dr Haglund said. "They have

been silent for a year, and by our work they now have the chance to tell us through their bodies the story of what happened here."

What happened is becoming clearly visible from the evidence of bullet casings (many stamped 1994), the absence of any military clothing, the wire wrapped around hands and arms, and the multiple gunshot injuries to each corpse: last July, more than 100 Muslim civilian men were lined up at the edge of the track at Cerska and shot by Serbs standing behind them. Their bodies tumbled over the edge of the bank and were covered with earth.

Dr Haglund, 53, a bearded American, cuts an academic figure, wearing a shirt and tie whatever the heat. A magnifying glass and scissors swing from a chain round his neck. A small figure, he presides over his team with methodical punctiliousness. They, for their part, appear to do most of their work in silence.

"They are used to digging mass graves," the doctor said. "Emotion may be put aside as they do their work, but they still feel shocked with the terrifying thing: the circumstances of how these people were killed. We know they were defenceless, many had wire tied around their hands, and that personalises it."

The work is grim and laborious, and the team members claim never to lose their awareness of the smell. High-tech equipment helps them to map the site, but locating the exact positions of the bodies before exhumation is done with a metal probe. Almost 5ft long and topped with a T-bar handle, it is pushed into the ground, withdrawn and sniffed. "The smell just knocks you over sometimes," one investigator said. "You might push it 10cm one way and it's just metal, then 10cm another and... oh boy."

Peking is accused of 'cultural genocide'

By MICHAEL DYNES

THE Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, yesterday accused China of conducting a policy of cultural genocide in its attempt to crush the Tibetan people.

The Buddhist leader, who is revered as a "God King" by six million Tibetans, told British MPs that his people "are being marginalised and discriminated against in the face of creeping Sino-cisation".

Speaking at the invitation of the all-party Parliamentary Group for Tibet, the Dalai Lama said the oppression of Tibet was an issue of "colonial rule".

The Dalai Lama said he was willing to hold talks with China on the future of Tibet. "As soon as there is a public indication from the Chinese Government, I am ready to negotiate without any precondition," he said.

But his appeal for "urgent intervention by the international community" prompted a swift rebuke from the Chinese authorities, who accused Britain of aiding and abetting attempts by the Buddhist leader to "split the motherland and undermine the ethnic harmony of China".

Cui Tiankai, a Chinese foreign affairs spokesman, said that the Dalai Lama's week-long visit — during



The Dalai Lama at the House of Commons yesterday, where he urged the international community to help Tibet

which he will meet Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary — would have "adverse effects on Sino-British relations". Since the Chinese invasion in 1949, hundreds of thousands of Chinese have migrated to the Himalayan plateau. "The destruction of cultural artefacts and traditions, cou-

pled with the mass influx of Chinese into Tibet, amounts to cultural genocide," the Dalai Lama said. He told MPs that the "next few years will be crucial in bringing about negotiations between us and the Chinese Government". This was the only way to promote a peaceful settlement "and not, as China would have it, through

force, intimidation and popular transfer," he added. The Dalai Lama said that Tibet was an ancient nation with a unique culture and civilisation which was disappearing fast. "In endeavouring to protect my nation from this catastrophe, I have always sought to be guided by realism, moderation and patience," he said. "However, it

has become clear that our efforts alone are not sufficient to bring the Chinese Government to the negotiating table. I am left with no other choice but to appeal to the international community for urgent intervention and action on behalf of my people," he added.

Leading article, page 17

Verona's silent tenor saved by voice-over

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN opera critics yesterday praised the Russian tenor Sergei Larin for miming a performance of Don José in Bizet's *Carmen* after losing his voice. He was rescued by a volunteer from the audience who sang the lyrics from the orchestra pit.

Larin, 39, was struck dumb with laryngitis at the end of the second act during the first night at the Roman Arena of Verona on Sunday. Some 15,000 people were watching the performance directed by Franco Zeffirelli.

A doctor gave the stricken singer an injection and he reappeared for the third act.

But after singing only a few notes, his affliction returned and he switched desperately into falsetto, bowing as the audience burst into sympathetic applause. A search for the stand-in revealed he had vanished — for dinner.

When all seemed lost, an American singer, John Horton Murray, came forward from the audience. "I know that part. I am going to sing it at the Metropolitan next autumn," Mr Murray, 34, said. And *Carmen* duly resumed.

Mr Murray said he had almost missed the opera after he was unable to find a hotel room in Verona.



Notat her victory has angered leftwingers

Health job for Juppé ally

Paris: The "Iron Lady" of French unions, Nicole Notat, 48, yesterday outmanoeuvred male colleagues to win the presidency of the National Sick Leave Insurance Fund, one of the most powerful posts in the national health care system (Adam Sage writes).

Mme Notat's moderate centre-left union ousted rivals from the post. Her victory enraged left-wing organisations but was welcomed by Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, who sees her as an ally in his bid to cut the Fr448 billion (£6 billion) welfare deficit.

US death penalty attacked as racist

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA is applying the death penalty in a racist, "wanton and freakish" manner, and offenders facing capital punishment are not assured of a fair trial, a respected group of independent judges and lawyers said in Geneva yesterday.

In America, the report drew swift reaction from the black civil rights movement, which said it exemplified a lack of political will in the Clinton Administration to deal with the issue of the death penalty.

The Geneva report, drawn up by the International Commission of Jurists after a fact-finding mission to America earlier this year, says growing public pressure to clamp down on crime through capital punishment is increasing the chance of miscarriages of justice. It says 82 per cent of defendants are accused of murdering whites, and far the majority are poor. It adds that 40 per cent of those executed between 1973 and 1995 were of African-American, Hispanic or American Indian origin.

The four senior jurists, from Australia, India, Nigeria and Sweden, who conducted the mission, say they were particularly disturbed by the political motivations of judges and district attorneys. In the 36 states where capital punishment is enforced, these officials "are elected quite often on the basis of their performance or promise of rigorously seeking out the death penalty".

The report continues: "The mission finds that the prospect of elected judges bending to political pressures in capital punishment cases is both real as well as dangerous to the principle of fair and impartial tribunals."

Speaking from New York, Kica Matos of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, said: "This report is absolutely correct. The death penalty in the United States is about race, arbitrariness and economic status. You rarely find a rich white person on death row and the Administration is doing absolutely nothing to change matters because this is an election year."

Monsoon flooding kills 200

Guwahati, India: Flooding and landslides have killed up to 200 people and made about 2.2 million homeless in north-east India and north Bangladesh, and monsoon rains are continuing to lash the region, officials said yesterday.

Officials in the Indian tea and oil-rich state of Assam said two weeks of flooding had claimed 23 lives there and forced 1.7 million people from their homes.

In the eastern sector of West Bengal, at least 70 people have been killed and 350,000 made homeless by floods or mudslides. (Reuters)

Rebel MiG pilot defects to Kabul

Kabul: A pilot from the rebel Taliban Islamic militia, which is fighting to topple the Afghan Government, has defected to government forces with a missile-armed MiG21 jet. Abdul Jalil, who said he was the deputy commander of the Taliban air force, has now been promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general. The Taliban forces have been besieging Kabul, the Afghan capital, since last October. (Reuters)

Saddam family members 'held'

Cairo: In a struggle within Iraq's ruling family, President Saddam Hussein has detained a nephew and put a son-in-law under house arrest, the Tehran-based Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said. The claim follows a reported coup attempt last month in which at least 50 officers were arrested. (AP)

Number one

Bombay: Ciprian Manolescu, 17, a Romanian, beat 429 teenagers from 75 countries to top the 37th International Mathematical Olympiad with a perfect score. (Reuters)

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Rollercoaster

Netanyahu West Bank before Cai

Mercen army

A LUXURY WE

Rollercoaster politics leaves Arkansas gasping at Governor's long goodbye



By TOM RHOODES
IN WASHINGTON
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN A series of reversals, stunning even by the chaotic standards of Arkansas politics, President Clinton's Democratic successor as state Governor effectively held the office hostage, was threatened with impeachment and finally kept his promise to resign.

Tucker finally kept his promise to resign

Five minutes before Lieutenant-Governor Mike Huckabee was to be sworn in on Monday as only the third-ever Republican chief executive, however, Mr Tucker shocked the general assembly with a letter that said he was leaving office only temporarily, pending the outcome of an appeal on his convictions.

He said Mr Huckabee would be installed as acting governor only until the appeal was complete, while he himself would take disability leave. Mr Tucker said his conviction would be overturned once it had been publicly acknowledged that, during the course of his trial, a female member of the jury

had married a man to whom the Governor had denied clemency on a 40-year sentence for cocaine possession in 1992. "I don't know how I would explain two weeks from now if the elimination of the verdict would eliminate the reason for my resignation," said Mr Tucker. "I know there are people who will say, 'You ought to get this over with and not allow it to go on any longer.' But I don't think that is in the best interest of the people of Arkansas."

Mr Tucker then sent a further letter from his office in which he withdrew his original resignation altogether, forcing Mr Huckabee, who described the incident as a "very critical moment for Arkansas", to announce that he would begin impeachment proceedings against the Governor if he did not relinquish his position immediately. Finally, Mr Tucker issued a handwritten statement that he would resign without condition.

But his decision not to step aside quietly only focused American minds once more on the bizarre politics of Mr Clinton's home state, the issue of Whitewater and whether Mr Tucker is merely a victim of presidential politics. The convictions of Mr Tucker and Jim and Susan McDougal, the Clintons' partners in the failed Whitewater land venture, had brought the scandal to the threshold of the White House and dented the President's poll ratings for several weeks. The spectacle in Little Rock will only renew interest in both Mr Tucker and his links to the Clintons.

Netanyahu eases West Bank curbs before Cairo visit

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday announced plans to ease the 19-week blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs and caused widespread economic hardship.

The move, announced after a Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, was seen as a sweetener in advance of Benjamin Netanyahu's first trip as Prime Minister to the Arab world tomorrow, when he will hold crucial talks with President Mubarak in Cairo. This will be followed next week by talks in Jordan with King Hussein.

The Cabinet statement yesterday did not give details of how the restrictions - imposed after a string of lethal suicide bomb attacks - would be lifted, saying only that the move was intended "to alleviate the economic distress of the Palestinians". Political sources said the move was in line with Mr Netanyahu's policy of improving Palestinian living conditions, while denying them any chance of self-determination.

According to government officials, once the closure has been lifted completely, half the 200,000 foreign workers now employed in Israel will be expelled. The foreigners have upset many Jews for a number of reasons, ranging from their liaisons with Jewish women to the 'Thai workers' supposed habit of hunting and eating domestic animals.

Some of the restrictions were lifted in recent weeks to allow several thousand middle-aged, married Palestinian workers to return to their jobs in Israel. In peak times, more than 100,000 people from the occupied West bank and Gaza Strip worked in Israel.

Diplomats predicted after the election of Mr Netanyahu that he would lift the closure imposed by his Labour predecessor, Shimon Peres, both to try to improve living conditions for Palestinians, many of whom are on the breadline, and also because his Likud Party regarded the closure as indirectly defining boundaries for a potential Palestinian state, which it opposes.

Shortly before lifting of the closure was announced, Yasser Arafat, the President of the Palestinian Authority, snubbed Mr Netanyahu's senior political adviser, Dore Gold, who had attempted to arrange a meeting with him. Officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said Mr Arafat rejected the contact because he did not want Mr Netanyahu to exploit contacts with the Palestinians to ease what are expected to be tough introductory talks with the Egyptian leader.

On the eve of Mr Netanyahu's planned visit, already condemned in advance by Egyptian journalists, Amr Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, said that "dangerous consequences" would result from Israel's determination to abandon the formula of "land for peace". At a Cairo summit last month, 21 members of the Arab League warned Israel that steps to normalisation could be reversed if there was no progress in peace talks.

Mercenary traits in army shock Israelis

JERUSALEM: Israelis have been stunned by publication of official salary figures showing that career army officers, always regarded as selfless and austere heroes, are in fact spectacularly well paid (writes Christopher Walker).

The figures were released by the Finance Ministry under Dan Meridor, the new right-wing minister, to silence a near-rumour within the forces over draconian cuts in defence spending. These are part of the new Government's attempt to slash nearly 5 billion shekels (about £1 billion) from the annual budget.

The salaries were divulged to the Knesset's influential Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee during a session in camera. They show that a major-general earns about £5,500 a month, about five times the Israeli average. On retirement, which can be as early as 42, a major-general receives grants equivalent to £280,000, according to the Finance Ministry presentation.

According to the ministry, which finds itself struggling to rescue the country from economic crisis, lower-ranking officers earn somewhat less, but still well above the standard Israeli salary.

In an effort to hit back, the military insists that the figures have been deliberately inflated and that true earnings are lower. A major-general, the army claims, could receive a lump sum of only £64,000 on retirement and then a monthly pension of about £3,000.

Major-General Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, who was General Liu's guest in May, said: "This is a very significant trip, representing the continuing liaison we've been aiming at for the past two years."

General Liu, 50, said he was happy to be in Hong Kong and extended greetings to "compatriots" there. He is an experienced infantry commander but does not speak English. Observers view him as competent and professional; in the Chinese Army, where all officers are Communist Party members, this means he has not made significant ideological mistakes.

A so-called militant co-ordination group, made up of all the state's main separatist factions, issued a statement last week requesting a ban on excursions in Kashmir. It said tourism did not go well with the struggle to free the region from Indian rule. More than a dozen groups are fighting Delhi's rule in India's only Muslim-majority state.



General Liu Zhenwu inspects a guard of honour in Hong Kong yesterday at the start of his tour of inspection

Chinese commander visits Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

IN THE first visit to Hong Kong by a senior Chinese military officer, General Liu Zhenwu, who will be the commander of the incoming garrison when the British Army leaves in less than a

year, yesterday began a three-day tour inspecting military facilities. Major-General Bryan Dutton, Commander British Forces in Hong Kong, who was General Liu's guest in May, said: "This is a very significant trip, representing the continuing liaison we've

been aiming at for the past two years." It is expected that the future Chinese garrison will consist of about 9,000 troops, the same size as the British force until it was reduced recently to 3,000.

General Liu, 50, said he was happy to be in Hong Kong and extended greetings to "compatriots" there. He is an experienced infantry commander but does not speak English. Observers view him as competent and professional; in the Chinese Army, where all officers are Communist Party members, this means he has not made significant ideological mistakes.

Kashmir killings set back tourism

FROM COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

INDIA'S hopes of restoring order to the troubled state of Kashmir have been set back by the murder of six Indian tourists in Srinagar, its summer capital.

The tourists, from the western Indian state of Rajasthan, were staying in a houseboat on Dal Lake. They were abducted by masked gunmen who later released three women, a child and two Kashmiri boatmen. The male tourists were kept hostage and later shot in the head.

The killings will frustrate attempts to revive tourism in the state, which has been plagued by insurgency for more than seven years. The Indian Government had hoped to restore normality in the area, where militants are fighting to establish a separate homeland.

Tourism was once the economic mainstay of the scenic valley, which is surrounded by the snowcapped Himalayas. During the insurgency most hotels have been closed or occupied by Indian troops, but in the past year tour operators had wooed some adventurous holidaymakers back to what was the favourite holiday destination for Indians.

The latest killings were the first instance of Indian tourists being shot. But in the past two months militants have killed 12 Nepali labourers and a group of 11 construction workers from Bihar state. It is still uncertain whether five Western hostages who were abducted in Kashmir a year ago are still alive.

A so-called militant co-ordination group, made up of all the state's main separatist factions, issued a statement last week requesting a ban on excursions in Kashmir. It said tourism did not go well with the struggle to free the region from Indian rule. More than a dozen groups are fighting Delhi's rule in India's only Muslim-majority state.

New York at equality's cutting edge

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

ONE OF the great inequalities between the sexes may soon be ended in New York. The city intends to ban hairdressers from charging women more than men to have their regular wash and blow dry.

The cost of a woman's hairdo, a source of bemusement to husbands across the world, was investigated by New York's department of consumer affairs. Its undercover agents discovered that hair salons regularly charged women some 20 per cent more than men for near-identical treatments.

A half-inch cut, wash and blow dry at Natalie's Unisex parlour in mid-Manhattan, for instance, cost \$31 (£20) for a woman and \$19 (£12) for a man. That compares with an average in Britain of about £16 for a woman and £10 for a man.

In a survey conducted by the department, 50 per cent of hairdressers raised their prices for women. As a result, the city council will in September debate a law which bans tonorial "gender price discrimination". The law may at first be enforceable only in unisex establishments, but a test case could make life interesting for some women-only hair salons.



The price of a haircut divides the sexes but it may be a snip closer soon

Beer advert whips up a tribal storm in US

BY QUENTIN LETTS

NATIVE Americans are angry about a British advertisement for Budweiser beer which, they say, stereotypes the image of the "drunken Indian".

The television commercial for the American beer, so far shown only on British screens, features a bar full of Indians. The driver of a cement lorry walks in, his face covered in white dust, and the bar quietens. Only when the man douses himself in water to show an Indian visage underneath the ghostly "pale face" does the conversation in the bar resume.

A LUXURY WEEK ON THE NILE

A cruise along the Nile on a deluxe vessel, not too large, and with like-minded travellers, has got to be one of the better ways of escaping the uncertain British weather. This cruising arrangement represents extraordinary value since the tariff includes all meals, transfers, guides and excursions. If you are looking for a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation, then this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

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Paul Frith is welcomed to the mainstream market by fashion editor Iain R. Webb



Fine strappy dress, £35

"IT'S far more difficult to design for a high street store than for my own label because I can do more or less anything I want for my own catwalk collection," says fashion designer Paul Frith as he unveils the collection of just under 20 pieces he has produced for the Bhs chain. He is the latest designer to be tempted by the mainstream market and the challenge has paid off.

Frith has already produced a pre-Christmas collection for the company and has begun working on another to go into the stores in spring 1997. Both he and Bhs seem pretty pleased with the results. "The association with a high street store is an opportunity to put my clothes on the backs of more people," says Frith.

"We had sponsored Paul's collections for the past two seasons so the capsule collection marks a natural progression," says Sheena MacDonald, the design director at Bhs. The company is committed to supporting new design talent and for the past two years has sponsored a graduate fashion week. From the wealth of home-grown talent Frith, it seems, was an easy choice. "His style matches our own," says MacDonald.

CERTAINLY Frith's brand of easy glamour has made him popular with *Vogue* magazine, a fact which can't have gone unnoticed with the team at Bhs. "He is at his best designing for sophisticated women," says Anna Harvey, the deputy editor of *Vogue*. "Women who like clean lines, simple tailoring and beautiful fabrics. I love his pure approach."

Which is exactly what he has given Bhs — a collection of no-nonsense pieces with a classy touch. "The original brief was not very specific," says Frith. "They wanted a flavour of what I do. I am more concerned with shape than detail. I want women to think, hey, this is a great jacket, pair of pants, or dress. I wanted to make a collection of clothes which totally work together."

For this first collection Frith shunned colour — everything is black except for one or two little tops in white — the complete opposite of his own mainline collection for this summer which is predominantly cream and white with a few bright highlights. "This was an attempt to give the collection a very definite image, a sophisticated look. Black is the favoured colour of



Fitted cap-sleeve dress, £25. Black kitten heel slingbacks, £115 (£45 in sale). Russell & Bromley, selected branches nationwide

the fashion pack. It's chic. It's very high street to go for the colours of the moment," he says.

Without colour, fabric became important and was the starting point for his designs. Frith told them which fabrics he wanted to use — an assortment of satins, taffeta, wool, jersey rib and stretch velour — and the Bhs team sourced them from their manufacturers. This immediately kept costs down and enables the store to price Frith's designs for little more than £10

above their expected price tags — dresses average £55 and jackets cost around £80. Not bad for a designer item.

Dresses are important. "I have simply interpreted them for a wider market," he says. "A shaped jacket isn't cut quite as severely as I might, but it still follows my line. I wanted to make beautiful garments which were within the confines of price and profile, as close as possible to clothes I would produce myself."

What Frith has also done is to afford Bhs a fresh eye and a

considered opinion, and it's rubbing off. Already there is talk of certain of his styles being incorporated into the main Bhs line later in the season.

"In the past there was an inconsistency of handwriting," says Madeline Moran, a womenswear design consultant, who worked closely with Frith on the project. "We were all over the place. There would be a great look next to a nasty polyester blouse. Having lint on the team made everyone feel special."



Jersey rib shirt, £35; satin bra, from a selection at Bhs; stretch satin skirt, £35



Frith's mainline collection, predominantly cream and white

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The man who has given his life to love and Africa

Mary Riddell meets the legendary wildlife film-maker Alan Root

To date, Alan Root has had a large segment of his leg torn off by a 30st gorilla, his bottom chewed by a leopard and his arm readjusted by an angry hippopotamus. He also lost a finger, and almost his life, when he was bitten by a puff adder.

And who, you are wondering, is Alan Root, or what remains of him? Imagine a venerable Indiana Jones in wire-rimmed spectacles.

His talent as a wildlife film-maker rivals or exceeds that of Cousteau or Attenborough. His *Survival Special* programmes have won him countless awards and made £43 million for Anglia Television, and his disdain for publicity is as legendary as his talent. Who else, for heaven's sake, could get an Oscar nomination for a film about an antihill?

We meet in a London hotel, where Root — tanned, scarred and sixtyish — sips whisky and looks as out of place as a rhino at a garden party. Just back from a decade filming in the uncharted rainforests of Zaire (a habit he clearly finds more congenial), he is here to talk about his new film, *A Space in the Heart of Africa*, which will be screened next Wednesday on TV.

"It was a boyhood dream. I grew up in East Africa, and the west always seemed wilder and more exciting. But I left it until late, because I knew it would take up to ten years to get all those strange, rare creatures."

Root's odyssey is an extraordinary story on two levels. The first is the sheer size of the problems he had to overcome. He travelled by plane and trail bike, and when the roughest paths ran out, he walked.

His targets were animals so rare that some had never been seen before. The catlike fishing genet had been identified only by bones found 30 years ago until Root tracked it down and filmed it.

Finding the Congo peacock, last seen 50 years ago, demanded four days' trek by motorbike and a further two on foot before Root found a Zairean who knew the species. "He said: 'Oh yes, I ate one of those a while ago.'"

Born in London and evacuated in the war to Wiltshire, Root's early passion for bird-watching was a modest training for the problems he was to encounter after his family moved to Kenya and he, self-taught, began his film career.

On the latest expedition, he was bitten by a snake ("only medium-venomous"), crashed his Cessna four-seater ("no one hurt but the wheels and wings were ripped off"), and ended up clinging to a plank of wood and his motorbike when a bridge broke underneath him.

The crocodile-infested river ran 30ft below, and help took an hour to arrive, but Root, although horrified at the thought of losing his work, was calm in the knowledge that he again faced death. "I suppose I am a compulsive risk-taker. But any of the animals which have bitten me in the past could have killed me, and none of them did. Really, they were saying 'Shove off, I'm not fearful, because taking risks is part of the job, and anyway, I wouldn't mind dying that

way. I'd rather not, but it wouldn't be a horrible way to die."

But death, or fear of it, overshadowed the making of his film. The second level of Root's extraordinary story is the fact that he undertook the last part of his crusade knowing that his wife might not survive its completion.

Several years ago, he and his first wife, Joan — with whom he ran safaris — divorced. "We were together too much — never out of each other's sight and sound. Plus I was totally self-centred and never thought about the relationship."

Shortly afterwards, he remarried. Jenny was a local potter whose work he had admired for years. She had also been told, not long before their wedding, that she had leukaemia and 18 months to live.

"She's been just incredible. She's not well now, and it's been very hard for her. I have much more admiration for her sort of toughness than for mine. I was worried about her health, but I had to get through the Zaire project — so much money had been invested in it, and it was something I had wanted to do for all of my life."

"I was commuting insanely: flying back and forth from Nairobi to Zaire in my small plane, but both of us knew this was something I couldn't just turn my back on. It will probably be my last major film."

As always, he filmed, produced and edited his work, as well as writing the script and choosing his favourite actor, Ian Holm, to read it. He so disliked the production of a film on the Galapagos, narrated by the Duke of Edinburgh, that he demanded full control of his *Survival* programmes and resigned when he did not get it.

Root spent two years with the BBC before the telegram arrived from his former employers. "Lassie, Come Home," it said. And he did. Now, years on, he is at last going home: this time for good.

From now on, he will live with Jenny in their home on the outskirts of Nairobi, grateful that millions of people have seen his Africa, while he has had his years of solitude. "I hate actually showing the country to people. I used to run photographic safaris, and I never liked having the paying dudes along."

If tourists were tiresome, Hollywood seemed worse. He consented to do only one film, *Gorillas in the Mist*, on the understanding that his sequences would be filmed in a separate country where he could work alone with his animals.

Root's ultimate fulfilment was to track down the unseen and the elusive. It was less a dream than an obsession, and it has left him at last. He will never again work to the same pitch, and he will not mourn it. "I've done my bit for posterity, if that doesn't sound too grand. I'm not burning to get on to the next job any more, and a lot of that is being married to Jenny. I have found at last that there is something more important than work."

He, after all, merely filmed survival. She, against all the odds, achieved it.



Close encounter: Alan Root relaxes on an African photo safari



Fine focus: Root takes a close-up shot of one of his wildlife subjects



Handle with extra care: a crocodile is caught for the camera

Siamese twins present a unique dilemma

The loneliest people alive

It is not simply for their rarity that Siamese twins attract national attention. They awaken a macabre curiosity in those who contemplate them, a fascinated horror at the thought of a future faced as part of an indissoluble pair. In a culture which believes in the uniqueness of human personality, a being that is more than one and yet less than two can be seen as a marvel of nature or a metaphysical insult.

Their eerie interpenetration encapsulates the drama of individual life, the struggle for freedom of self against the demands of society. Siamese twins encompass the ambiguities of a paradoxical world, they illustrate Coleridge's "warring contraries of life", constantly invading and repelling each other. They represent the puzzling play of harmony and interfusion against discord and separation.

History tells of several celebrated pairs of Siamese twins. There were the Biddenden maids, Mary and Eliza Chulchurst. They lived in Kent in the early years of this century and when they died they left 20 acres of land, part of the rent of which was to be spent each year distributing cakes baked in their image to itinerants who passed through the village. There were the two sisters, Millie Christine, born in North Carolina in 1851. Millie sang soprano and Christine contralto, while they accompanied themselves on the guitar. The Godino brothers, who were born in the Philippines in 1908, became proficient at swimming, tennis and golf.

But the popular term Siamese twins originates from the celebrated brothers, Chang and Eng, who were born in Siam (now Thailand) in 1811. Joined at the base of their chests by a thick, fleshy ligament, they lived a "normal" life until the age of 13 when, spotted by a shrewd Scottish trader, they were tempted over to America. For 15 years they were exhibited in fairs and sideshows all over the United States under the banner *lusus naturae* — the sport of nature.

In their early years, Chang and Eng seemed mentally as well as physically indivisible. They referred to themselves in letters as "I". What one disliked eating, the other rejected. When one felt satiated, the other did too. They would fall ill together and then recover, both on the same day. Eventually they married two sisters and organising their lives as their mother had taught them — taking it in turns week by week to take control of what they would do — they would visit their separate wives and homes. Between them they fathered 21 children.

But after their marriages, each began to feel the other an albatross about his neck. Chang would irk his brother by sitting up all night playing poker. He took to whisky and his brother — who was teetotal — would find himself chained in uncomfortable proximity to a violent drunk.

In addition to this they began to find their life as exhibits repugnant. Where audiences had found them charming in their youths, they found them in middle age increasingly risible and repulsive. The twins consulted a surgeon about separation, but were warned that it would result in their deaths.

Chang eventually grew increasingly ill. Partially paralysed by a stroke, he had to be dragged around by his brother. Finally, Eng woke up one night feeling sick. His twin lay chill and dead beside him. He drew his brother into his arms. "May the Lord have mercy on my soul," he said, before leaning back on his pillows he too died. They were buried beneath a double headstone.

In a modern era, Chang



RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

and Eng could easily have been separated. They, like the majority of conjoined twins, were united only by their body walls. But sometimes the connection is visceral. The twin girls born in Glasgow last week shared both a heart and a liver. In cases like this, a painful moral dilemma arises. Parents and surgeons must choose whether to leave the twins to grow up intact, or whether one should be sacrificed so that the other can live.

This was the case with the Hensel sisters, who live in a small town in the American Midwest. Sharing a bloodstream and all organs from

which leads to severe disablement and, often, a life confined to a wheelchair. Such mutilations seem sad as a ruin. The Biddenden Maids sagely refused to be separated. "As we came together, so shall we go together," they said.

The civilised world is outraged by the very suggestion of the fairground freakshow. Yet we roll up to marvel at the wonders of science. Though their stories are often dressed up as tales of parental love and fortitude, conjoined twins, in certain cases, seem to have become exhibits for the demonstration of modern medical magic. They have become surgical sideshows.

The ethical dilemma in cases in which children are born critically impaired is less that of whether the severely handicapped have a right to life, as whether parents have a right to choose for their children a life of crippling pain.

In nature, there are no authentic records of a double mammal having survived into adulthood in the wild state. Only reptiles and fish have survived in this way. The parents of the conjoined sisters born in Glasgow made a generous and humane — though undoubtedly painful — decision, when they decided that their children should not be separated. After a serious deterioration of coordi-



Eng and Chang found life increasingly repugnant

tion, the twins were taken off ventilation. The parents allowed their daughters to die with the dignity which a human being deserves.

Now six years old and inseparably linked, they live apparently bappy and healthy lives. They use humour to outface the problems they encounter in their almost unimaginably intimate lives.

They are two very different people in character, with different opinions, tastes and dreams. Undoubtedly their bravery and determination has much to teach about the strength and power of human co-operation. But their future as they reach puberty will hold severe trials. The tragic words of a pair of conjoined twins in Russia ring a cruel knell: "We are the loneliest people alive," they said.

Yet even if separation can be guaranteed safe, the dilemmas posed are still harrowing. Multiple surgery sends a child out on a pathway of pain

IT SEEMS possible that Diana, Princess of Wales, though divested of the title HRH, resigned the patronage of more than one hundred charities last night in an imperious fit of pique. If so, the Queen of Hearts is casting aside her caring role in as cavalier a fashion as she relinquished her regiments. It is telling that she should have retained her more material royal regalia — her brooches and bracelets, pearls and pendants.

Would it be cynical to suggest that her interest in these charities was purely a matter of image all along? If so, perhaps Relate, the marriage guidance counselling service, will not be alone in breathing a sigh of relief to have lost so inappropriate a patron.

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Queen was represented by the Lord Carnarvon (Lord in Waiting) at the Queen's Birthday Party...



The Prince of Wales meeting families of Gurkhas stationed in Brunei yesterday after he had trekked into the rainforest to watch a demonstration of Gurkha jungle survival techniques. The Prince later left for America

Memorial service

Lord Jay
The Queen was represented by Lord Carnarvon at a memorial service for the late Lord Jay...

Birthdays today

Sir Hardy Amies, fashion designer, 87. Dame Joyce Anelay, vice-chairman, Conservative Party, 94...

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11. The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, will preside at the annual meeting of the Central Council of Physical Recreation...

Appointments in the Forces

Royal Navy and Royal Marines
COMMANDER C Allwood to be promoted to Rear Admiral...

Receptions

The Hawthornden Prize
The Hawthornden Prize for Literature for 1996, which has been awarded to Hilary Mantel...

Appointments

Mr Bill Woodrow, the sculptor, to be a trustee of the Tate Gallery for a five-year period.

Deputy lieutenants

The following are appointed deputy lieutenants for Aberdeenshire: Mrs Nicola Bradford, John Alexander Campbell...

Forthcoming marriages

Mr C.E. Alexander and Miss C.L. Baldwin
The engagement is announced between Edward Alexander and Miss L.H. Turner...

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Andrea del Sarto, painter, Florence, 1486; John Jacob Astor, fur trader, Waldorf, Astor, 1763; Shmuel Nobel, chemist, Nobel laureate 1906...

Lecture

Wellington Society
Mr Arthur D. McG. Steele delivered a lecture to the Wellington Society yesterday at the Wellington Hospital...

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DEATHS
BACH - Henry in hospital on 10th July aged 78 after long illness...

DEATHS
COOK - Jane (nee Paley) on 14th July aged 87 after long illness...

DEATHS
HALL - Richard Ward Hall M.A. on 13th July 1996...

DEATHS
ROBERTSON - Ellen (nee Macdonald) on 11th July aged 85...

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
TIBB - Richard Peter Baxter 21st April 1977 to 17th July 1996...

CONGRATULATIONS
DAVID SIMON on 6th June 1996...

FLATSHARE
WATSON - Patricia (nee Wilson) on 12th July 1996...

TICKETS FOR SALE
Readers are advised to subscribe to the paper before full details of tickets before entering any competition...



Steaming hot: York's railway museum restaurant offers local specialities such as Yorkshire curd tarts

Widget Finn finds out how rain affects sandwiches at Britain's attractions

On the tourist menu

When the Victoria & Albert Museum launched a marketing campaign with the slogan "Ace café — quite a nice museum attached", the dieters were appalled. The marketing campaign was designed to shock, says Robin Cole-Hamilton, head of public affairs. "It showed that the V&A recognises that people don't just come for great works of art; they also expect a good cup of coffee. As we're a museum, not a restaurant, we brought in the experts to manage our catering."

Traditionalists may be mollified to know that the "café" now contributes £250,000 to the V&A's annual income. UK tourist attractions will welcome 25 million overseas visitors and 125 million domestic tourists this year, at least half of them wanting refreshments. The food at tourist sites must appeal to a range of tastes, from schoolchildren to sophisticated eaters, says Claire Ford, who designs

the menus for ten heritage sites managed by Milburns Restaurants. The Imperial War Museum has a strong British following, which is reflected in traditional food such as Lancashire hotpot and a high consumption of tea, while the British Museum attracts tourists from all over the world who want widely recognisable dishes like poached salmon and chicken.

Milburns includes local specialities in its heritage restaurants — Bath buns at the City's Pump Rooms, Yorkshire curd tarts at the British Railway Museum — and has themed menus for special exhibitions — diners at the Royal Academy's Venetian Exhibition could enjoy Venetian culinary specialities such as *fortia verde*.

Cafés, brasseries, fast-food points or sandwich bars are the norm at tourist attractions. On the whole, tourists don't want to spend the time or money on a sit-down, waitress-served meal, although the National Railway Museum at York

is an exception. Its restaurant on Platform 3 has been serving a proper meat and two veg menu for most of the museum's 21 years.

Contract caterers work closely with their clients at tourist attractions to identify the visitor profile, which is essential for menu planning. The positioning of eating areas, the flow of visitors, even the opening times and weather are vital.

"We always undertake to increase the gross catering revenue, which means that our client, who gets a percentage of the takings, also benefits," says Evelyn Thurby, development director of Gardner Merchant Leisure Services, whose contracts include the Royal Armouries, Hampton Court Palace and the Motor Museum at Beaulieu in Hampshire.

The caterer's perfect visitor site has a food outlet near the entrance to make it accessible to people from outside. Further catering is placed at critical points such as the start of

tours, so that visitors can sit and plan their next move, with a larger eating point near the exit. In practice, the constraints of old buildings like Hampton Court mean that caterers have to compromise, although their contract often includes an opportunity to refurbish or tailor existing facilities.

Flexibility is the keynote of catering at tourist sites where numbers can vary daily according to events and weather. Gardner Merchant gets advance details of large booked parties so that small kiosks selling ice-cream and drinks can be opened or closed according to demand. And Pret A Manger, sandwich chain that does all the catering for the Tower of London's tourists, contacts the Weather Centre several times a day. "Rain can make a big impact on the business, affecting takings by 50 per cent," claims Richard Smith, operations manager. "The National Gallery is very busy when it rains, while the Tower goes quiet."

Companies that decide to outsource their information technology operations should sign short-term, tailor-made contracts, a survey of 40 companies shows. Better still, companies should give their existing in-house teams a chance to do the job efficiently.

The three-year survey, carried out by Templeton College at Oxford University, covered large and small organisations in sectors including airlines, banking, chemicals, electronics, food, oil, retailing and government.

The report welcomes the competition that outsourcing has fostered but it argues that companies can do more to find the solution that suits them best.

The authors, Mary Lacey, an assistant professor at the University of Missouri, and Leslie Wilcocks, lecturer in management studies at Oxford, found that IT contracts ran for up to ten years, with some companies outsourcing the whole IT function and

An inside job

Outsourcing is not always the best information technology strategy

others only parts. They say that the trigger for the change in the way in which IT operations were carried out came in 1989, when Eastman Kodak, the photographic giant, turned over most of its IT operations to three outsourcing partners. Senior executives of other major US companies followed, signing long-term contracts worth millions of dollars with IT outsourcing partners.

Similar outsourcing deals were signed in the UK by companies including BP Exploration, British Aerospace and BHS, and by government departments such as the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security. By 1994, just over half of UK

organisations were outsourcing some aspect of their information technology needs.

Because IT spans such a variety of activities, outsourcing should be done selectively. The authors say: "No one vendor or internal IT department possesses the experience and economies of scale to perform all IT activities most effectively."

The authors emphasise that contracts tailored to the organisation are better than trying to set up strategic partnerships with IT suppliers.

They argue that short-term contracts are preferable to long-term ones for several reasons. Technology and business conditions cannot be predicted for more than three

years, so contracts become increasingly outdated. Short-term contracts motivate vendors, because they realise that the customer may switch suppliers when the contract expires, while companies can recover and learn quickly from mistakes.

Unexpected costs arising from outsourcing IT "consistently appeared" in the deals the authors studied. Many sprang from oversights or weaknesses in evaluating the project before signing the contract. "In many cases organisations find themselves paying for the vendor's learning curve, are locked into old technologies with high switching costs, or they incur large discretionary spending outside the contract."

The report says that internal IT departments should make more effort to bid for contracts. Many outside bids are based on efficient management practices that in-house teams can achieve.

To do so, they may have to break down the prejudices of senior executives who resist improvements because of internal politics, then blame the IT managers for not making progress. Cost-saving measures such as consolidating data centres or standardising software packages are often rejected by superiors.

Successful decisions require senior management and the in-house IT experts to get together to make decisions.

All change on the Tyne

A plum PFI contract involves rehousing 13,000 civil servants

Building & Property, the facilities management company, has won a 25-year preferred supplier contract in the first big property project of the Government's private finance initiative (PFI). In a joint venture with Amec, the construction group, it will supervise the £150 million redevelopment of the Department of Social Security's headquarters in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The DSS occupies 11 sites in and around the city. The PFI will concentrate the department's offices on two main sites: Longbenton to the north, where Amec will be constructing 70,000 sq m of accommodation, and Washington to the south, where a 23,000 sq m office building is planned. The project involves extensive demolition and redevelopment.

The bid was won in the face of stiff competition from Taylor Woodrow and W.S. Atkins. Brian Taylor, a Building & Property director, says: "We will not only provide fully-managed office space for the DSS, but we could eventually be providing a range of additional services, such as security, cleaning and catering."

In addition to the £150 million capital cost of construction, there is an annual sum for FM, which is likely to be about £4 million a year. The DSS will lease its new office buildings from Newcastle Estate Partnership, a company formed by Amec and Building



Brian Taylor: big exercise

& Property to build, manage and maintain the buildings until they are handed over to the DSS when the 25-year lease expires.

Joint venturing with contractors on PFI projects is part of Building & Property's strategy to win more long-term negotiated business as opposed to the standard five-year FM contracts for which it has to bid in competition. The company is partnering Amec in bidding for a £250 million PFI scheme to redevelop the Royal London Hospital and is preferred bidder on a £10 million health sector PFI in a joint venture with Miller, a Scottish contractor.

PFI bids are notoriously costly to put together and can easily run into tens of thou-

sands of pounds. On the DSS scheme, negotiations lasted 18 months and it clearly helped that Building & Property, owned by its joint venture partner Amec and the civil engineering consultancy Pell Frischmann, was able to share bidding costs.

The DSS project is partly self-financing, which will minimise costs to the Government and provide a *quid pro quo* to the developer shouldering the risk. A vital factor in the deal was the DSS's releasing part of its sprawling Longbenton site to Amec Developments, which plans to build a 100-bed hotel and leisure facilities.

On the FM front, Building & Property's immediate problem will be managing the moves as 13,000 DSS staff are decanted from existing offices. Staff will be moved into temporary accommodation until the new offices are ready for occupation. Mr Taylor says: "Our first FM role will be management and communication, en-

sure the changeovers go smoothly, that the information technology stays up and running and that we meet health and safety requirements. It's a very, very big exercise."

He is looking forward to managing the new buildings. Being part of a consortium has given the FM company the chance to influence design at an early stage, and maintenance, security and operation will all be easier as a result. The design helps to ensure that whole-life costs for heating and ventilating plant are minimised, and Building & Property will let FM sub-contractors on the basis of competitive tender. Mr Taylor says: "There is no preference for in-house companies."

Mr Taylor believes PFI will enable the department dramatically to reduce its FM costs. He says: "There are two ways they save money. Under the PFI, we had to price competitively and now that we are at the preferred-bidder stage the client will benchmark us against the cost of the traditional Government procurement process."

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THE J&D Organisation, a family-owned firm which supplies commercial support services to British Gas, BP Oil and London Underground, among others, is piloting a new service called Domestic Doctors. It promises fair, benchmarked charges to the public in their homes and reliable service by a fleet of satellite-controlled vans.

"Most domestic work is reactive," says Graham Westley of J&D. "The drains flood, the larder is blocked. That doesn't need to happen. A proactive visit will identify the leaves in the gutters, and a bit of wire mesh will save a lot of trouble. Cleaning carbon from the boiler heads will save you problems later. Prevention is better than cure; that's the motto of the FM industry, and we are going to apply it to the domestic market."

□ **SPACE** planning, benchmarking, catering, health and safety and performance-based contracting are among the topics chosen for Quadrant's conference programme at the FM Expo North 96 exhibition at G-Mex, Manchester, on October 22 and 23.

More than 100 exhibitors have signed up for the show. Details: 0181-742 2828.

□ **THE** in-house facilities team bidding to provide support services to the army in the Salisbury Plain area has formed a partnership with Procord, the British arm of Johnson Controls FM.

Procord has also set up a property management service, backed by a software package and a series of business briefings aimed at managers: details 01242 577277.

Domesday duty

Peter Brown reports on the removal of the national archive to Kew

To walk into the Public Record Office at Kew is to step not only into the past but onto it. The entrance atrium is paved with slate taken from the PRO's headquarters at Chancery Lane, which dates from the 1850s. In those days slate shelves were the latest thing for document storage.

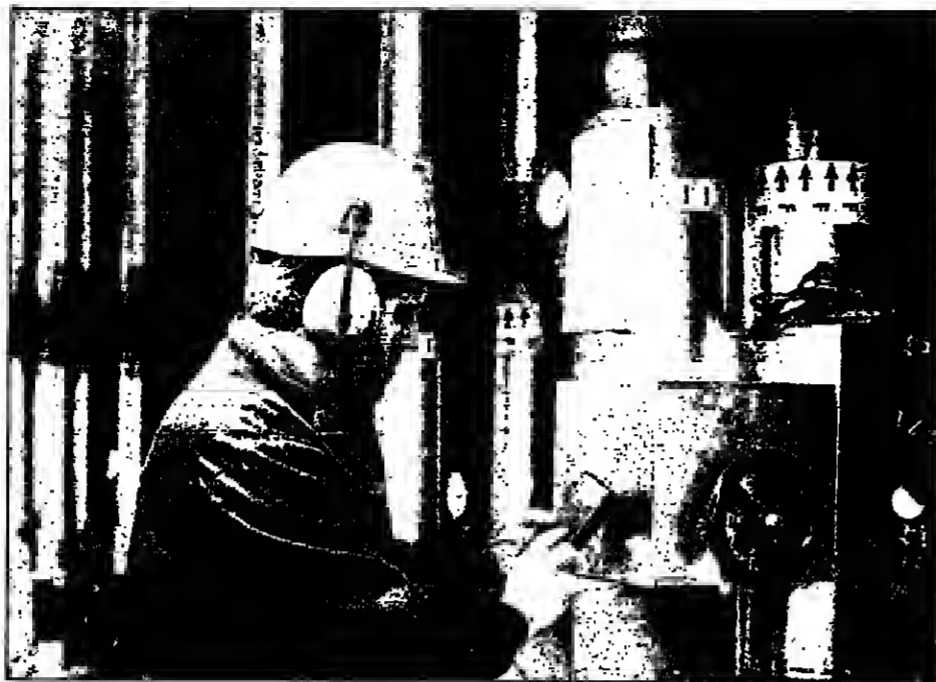
By Christmas, Chancery Lane, which lies off Fleet Street, will be closed: all its contents will have been moved to Kew (to the annoyance of some scholars). The Domesday Book has yet to make the journey but the iron chest in which it once was kept already graces a Kew corridor. Its three separate locks (requiring three separate keyholders) are a reminder that security problems are nothing new.

Security is handled in-house at Kew, but keeping watch on the maintenance of mechanical and electrical works, window cleaning, landscaping, pest control and energy management are Alan Garner and John Short of Mowlem FM, which holds a partnership contract with the PRO.

"When it lost the services of the Property Holdings, the government agency, in April, the PRO was effectively jumping out of an aeroplane without a parachute," says Mr Short. Mowlem's change manager at Kew, "We are the parachute. We have the experience to take an overview."

Duncan Simpson, the PRO's director of corporate services, puts it slightly differently: "We looked for the parachute before we jumped," he says. "We had the choice of continuing with Property Holdings' successor, or going into the marketplace. Broadly speaking, all seems to be going well with the Mowlem contract."

Looking after the national archive is a heavy responsibility. Created for the convenience of Victorian lawyers, the PRO now attracts scholars from all over the world to see documents such as Shakespeare's will, Bligh's account of the mutiny on the *Bounty*, Guy Fawkes's confessions and Captain Cook's charts.



An engineer checks equipment at the Public Record Office in Kew, where the Domesday Book (left) will soon be stored



ing system sniffs for smoke. "The chillers and the heating plant are all sized for back-up," says Mr Short. "There is a lot of redundant equipment built into the system. Mould is the enemy, and smoke is the great danger."

There are two, connected buildings at Kew. The first is a 1970s building for which Mowlem has awarded the maintenance contract to AHS Emstar. There were some control system problems, but Steve Parkinson, Emstar's director of building services management, is pleased with progress.

Dust, he says, is a problem. "Maintaining the right environment is crucial, but I think we've cracked it. Now we're working towards the Government's energy efficiency targets."

The second building, a £33 million extension, opened last September. Kyle Stewart, the main contractor, subcontracted the work to How Engineering, whose installation contract has a year and a half to run.

This building is designed to meet the annual 1.5km extension of the archive until 2010. Flexible joints are built into its steelwork to allow for a 50mm movement, as the documents

are moved in and the building settles. Overhead, huge solar shading blinds whirr impressively to and fro, reacting to light and heat sensors.

Water is a potential danger: the Thames is tidal at Kew. No documents are stored in the basement or ground floor, and the roof is double-shelled. Should a storm coincide with high tide, a balancing pond outside the building fills up.

Mowlem's partnership with the PRO is going "as well as possible", Mr Garner says. "It's like a marriage: communication is the key. And there has to be goodwill." Twice-weekly meetings are held with the PRO's estates team, and Mowlem chairs a monthly meeting to review progress.

All complaints are funnelled through Mowlem, which already claims a faster response time to requests via the helpdesk. For the future, Mowlem is monitoring energy consumption and is looking at a combined heat and power unit and perhaps a desiccant dehumidifying process.

Mowlem will take a percentage of energy savings made over the contract period — three years, with an option on a further two — so automatic heat and light controls are likely innovations.

Offices learn to cut costs

Multiskilling has paid useful dividends

MANAGEMENT costs are falling, according to the quarterly *Times/Procord* index of office costs. While the trend will continue, Andrew Gardiner, performance group manager at Procord, believes that many companies have learnt that cutting down too far on facilities management numbers can be a false economy.

Property management costs per employee fell from £192 to £173 in the second quarter compared with the first quarter, the index shows. Mr Gardiner cites changes in the way contracts are structured, general market pressure and improved management practices.

He says: "Organisations have been looking at the management function and how they can manage facilities more efficiently. We are now seeing costs coming down as firms develop a multiskilling approach."

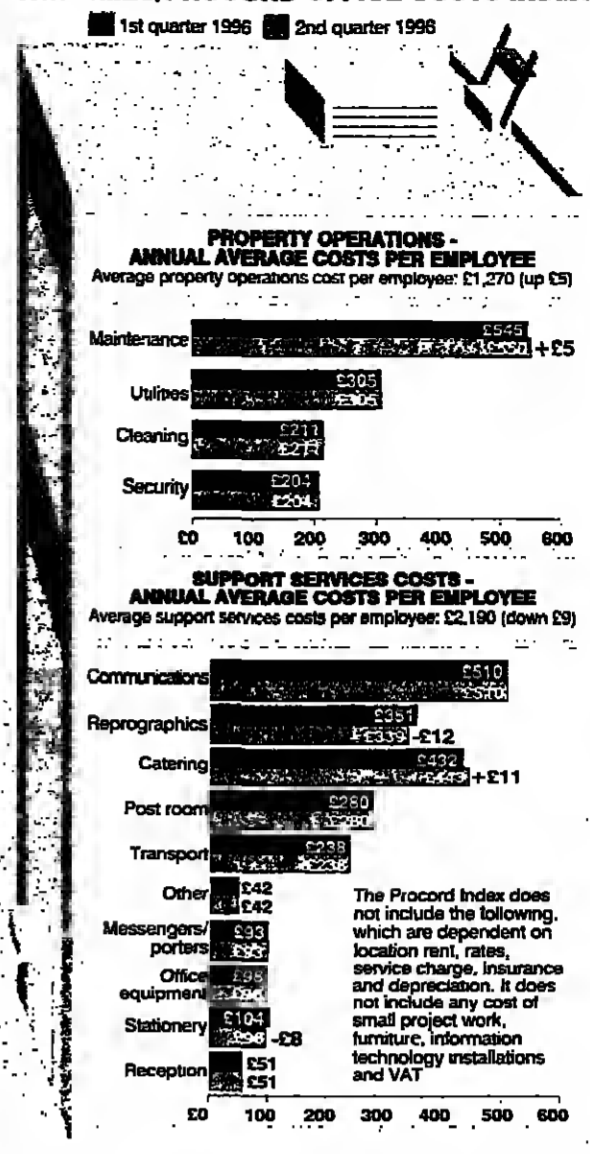
Traditionally, four or five heads of department have reported on facilities management through different channels to the main board. Reports may come through the finance director, administration or personnel.

The property owned by an organisation may come under the finance director because it is a substantial cost while managing the facilities comes under a different department. Reporting channels can typically be cut to two with an office services manager and a technical services manager.

Mr Gardiner warns, however, that where management is cut back too hard there is a clear link between lower costs and lower efficiency.

He says: "Quite often low resourcing, and therefore costs, in terms of the management function, go hand in hand with high costs for most or all of the other facility cost centres. When the ratio between the two is considered,

THE TIMES/PROCORD OFFICE COSTS INDEX



the false economy of doing this can be seen.

"Inadequate resourcing of the facilities management function might save £100 an occupant a year, which represents £50,000 a year in a 10,000 sq m office building housing 500 people. If this leads to inefficient facility services, however, this might cost an additional £2,000 an occupant a year, or an additional £1 million a year.

"If a firm gets the management of its facilities wrong, it may employ a very good contractor to do the wrong job working to the wrong specifications. More significantly, the quality of the service will probably be lower as well. This will lead to further costs in terms of lost production."

The fall in management costs was the main change in the second quarter. The cost of

reprographics and stationery also fell sharply.

Barry Varcoe, Procord International performance manager, says: "In reprographics, labour costs have risen by 3 per cent over the past year but paper costs have fallen dramatically, sometimes by as much as 20 per cent over the quarter. The reason is not entirely clear, although it seems that organisations had stockpiled paper and were running stocks down while prices were high. The overall effect of these shifts is a fall in reprographics costs by 3.5 per cent."

The main cost increase came in catering, where labour and food costs continue to rise in line with inflation. Overall, average property costs have fallen £23 per employee in the second quarter.



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GARDNER MERCHANT



Matthew Freud often commands as many column inches as his clients, while Julia Carling is seen by some as indicative of the dizzy heights attainable by a former PR



A matter of trust or tricks

After years of pestering journalists and broadcasters to feature their clients, and peddle their products, the public relations operatives who feed on the British media are about to have the tables turned upon them. Keith Cooper, head of corporate affairs at the Royal Opera House, is to make a series on the dos and don'ts of PR, and is pitching for a slot on the BBC.

The last time he appeared on television, sacking a box-office manager, haranguing a minion and closing the Opera House shop, he caused an outcry. It is no less likely to happen this time.

For there is no more contentious question — among those on the receiving end — than the iniquities of PR. The meaningless releases. The miserably pitched on behalf of minor celebrities. The evasiveness when anything interesting happens. They are truly the bane of efficient offices.

Perhaps the most PR-besieged journalist in Britain is Andy Coulson of *The Sun's* Bizarre column. "It's not unusual to find 50 letters from PRs arriving in the office in the morning," he says. It is rare that any of them make a story.

"Some agencies are good but most have no idea what a newspaper is about at all. They think that some pop

group that no-one has ever heard of can get three paragraphs in Bizarre as soon as they hit the charts. Nothing on a press release is of much interest to me. But there are some who understand what I want, and I can do business with them. If they know what we want, which is an exclusive, and they know what their clients want, then I am always prepared to meet half way. If I don't want it, then it will end up in the *Mirror*."

David Johnson, formerly an executive at the *Evening Standard* and *The Daily Telegraph*, now with *The Sunday Times*, is one of the few journalists who will say on the record what most are only prepared to say off the record. "They have no understanding at all of how a newspaper works. I gave a lecture once at a course for trainee PRs — though God knows what they teach them — and I went round the newsroom. I asked dozens of people to name the best PR in London, and they all said the same: there isn't one. My first gesture, at the lecture, was to produce a foot-high pile of press releases from my bag, and say 'This is the first thing I do when I get to work each morning, then I dropped them all in a bin.'"

In general, whether or not a release from a PR is opened on its way to the bin is largely a

Is PR about simply getting to know what papers want then using every method to make sure they get it, or is there more to it, asks Giles Coren

matter of the company name. Some firms send product launches disguised as stories, others just send brand updates disguised as product launches. The longer and glossier the press release, the more rubbish the story — always.

"A press release really has no more than a one in a thousand chance of getting in the paper," says Johnson. "But there are lazy journalists who will take the stuff straight out and use it. PRs depend on a sort of tit-for-tat relationship with them. Their response is so offensive. They call up using only their Christian name, and address you by yours. There are no more than four or five good PRs in the arts — like Erica Bolton, who understands a story, and doesn't protest. It is a motormouth profession that has always attracted very silly people, with no understanding of the media, and no vision."

But this is a world in which the PR professional orchestrates every aspect of public

life — and names like Max Clifford, Matthew Freud, Lynne Franks, and Tim Bell often court as much column space as their clients — it is bizarre to reflect that there was ever a world without them, that a public (or occasionally private) figure's "image" was manipulated by anybody but themselves.

But today the PR industry employs 40,000 people and turns over £1 billion a year. It is second only to journalism as the most sought-after career by graduates (who see the heights attainable by an ex-PR), and nobody takes his or her head out of a paper bag without consulting one. Furthermore, a 1994 survey by the Public Relations Consultants Association claimed that 10-20 per cent of national newspaper stories are PR-driven.

But Bernard Docherty, of Laister Dixon, who represents Tina Turner, Paul McCartney and the Rolling Stones, la-

ments the mystique that attaches itself to PR. "It is not so mysterious," he says. "It is just about getting to know what the papers want, and then using all the tricks to make sure they get it. There is no mystique."

The most notorious publicist of all, Max Clifford, is less oblique. "Lies and deceit are important weapons," he says, "and I am the only one who admits it. If you ask me whether my client is gay, I say 'no, he is not', knowing full well that he is."

Veteran PR Liz Brewer laments the fact that "every other girl you meet now has a card that says 'PR' on it, and with the professionals suggesting the proliferation of lies and fakers, you just don't know where to turn."

As a rule Freud Communications are considered useful for freebies, but often talk a better story than is ultimately produced. Lowe-Bell are famed for being well-connected and smooth, but are as sharp as any, whereas Aurelia are thought genuinely pulkka — the Hon Aurelia Cecil has all the top parties, but loyalty to her aristocratic clients keeps any true dirt from being dished. David Burnside, of DBA, placed a lot of very big stories, as does Peter Thom-

son, the doyen on West End theatre, who does for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Cameron Maclintosh.

If the media can manage without the new middleman, the question returns to whether the stars can survive without them? "That depends," says Clifford. "Look at Pamela Anderson, she had Stuart Higgins instead. Two years ago he decided that she was a good thing for *The Sun*, and she was made. Look at Cliff Richard. That stunt at Wimbledon was priceless. I heard Mark Borkowski had a hand in it, but you never know."

This is the point, you never do know. Borkowski is more familiar to journalists for attempts to promote products, from Action Man to the Albert Hall, with glib stunts. As Clifford says: "You can promote anything."

Last May Borkowski lured half a dozen national newspaper journalists, three television crews and two radio reporters to the Albert Hall to spend a night waiting for a ghost. Each was told that they would be alone. The outrage of each individual, coned into travelling to Kensington after midnight, was directed at the PR company for lying about exclusivity. It is the triumph of PR that nobody thought to complain about the absence of ghosts.

Worries as BBC's golden age draws to a close

Commercial expansion is the only way forward, says Eric Reguly

THE BBC was positively brimming with optimism yesterday. John Birt, the Director-General, and Sir Christopher Bland, the new Chairman, spoke about a "golden period" in programme making. They unveiled charts showing that the share of the viewing and listening audience had held steady, in spite of an onslaught from competing services. Financially, the BBC was as healthy as it has ever been: it could even afford to raise Birt's pay by £27,000 to almost £300,000.

In short, the 1995-96 reports and accounts showed that the BBC was "in fine creative shape, leaner and finer, and ready to face the challenges of the digital era."

Why then, is the BBC management so terrified? The answer, it seems, is that the golden age is drawing to a close. The television and radio market in Britain is becoming increasingly competitive. Channel 5, the newest terrestrial service, is to begin broadcasting next year, and satellite and cable television channels are coming on strong.

It used to be that all of the people watched BBC most of the time. In the near future, it is likely that only some of the people will watch it only some of the time. The BBC's nightmare scenario is a general rebellion. As the service becomes less popular and the market more fragmented, how much longer can it justify squeezing the public for an ever-increasing licence fee? It is now £89.50 a year, up from £86.50.

The BBC has held up fairly well so far. According to the latest figures, its share of the viewing and listening audience held steady at 45 per cent in 1995-96, down only marginally from 46 per cent two years ago. The proportion of UK householders viewing and listening to at least two hours of BBC programming a week also held steady, at 95 per cent. Although BBC2 is under pressure, the more popular BBC1 is making a comeback against ITV. ITV's weekly average viewing share fell from 39 per cent to 37 per cent, while BBC1 remained unchanged at 32 per cent.

On the financial front, the news was equally cheery. Licence-fee income rose 9 per cent to £1.82 billion and borrowings, which fell by half to

£35 million, should be eliminated by the end of the year. Another round of redundancies — the number of home-services employees fell by 850 during the year — has created "efficiency savings" of some £100 million, on top of the £200 million in annual savings already achieved since 1992-93.

But this is as good as it is going to get. Clearly, the BBC cannot rely forever on redundancy savings or substantial rises in licence fee income. At best, that income will rise by the rate of inflation. The BBC has to develop an alternative source of income so it can, for example, bid for sports rights — lack of funds lost it the Grand Prix and the FA Cup last year — and finance quality productions such as *Pride and Prejudice*.

This is where Bob Phillis, the BBC's deputy-director general, comes in. Mr Phillis is the former chief executive of ITN and has been at the BBC for 3½ years. He recognises the danger of relying almost exclusively on licence-fee income. Phillis's vehicle for developing a second stream of income is BBC Worldwide, where he was recently made chief executive. The two-year-old company is the BBC's commercial arm and is charged with licensing and distributing the BBC's programming around the world, publishing magazines such as *Top Gear* and books such as *Delia Smith's Winter Collection*, and selling the BBC World Service.

BBC Worldwide had a turnover of £338 million in the year and contributed £77 million, up from £53 million in the previous year, directly to the BBC. In the overall scheme of things, it does not add up to much, but Phillis has ambitious plans. Publicly he says he intends to double or triple the division's contributions to the BBC within ten years; privately, he hopes to go much further. If the BBC is to thrive, he has to.

The BBC has to create, and retain control of, new channels and form partnerships to exploit new markets. It has to start pay-channels and launch fee-paying services such as video-on-demand and CD-Rom publishing. The BBC will never become a wholly commercial service but going half way, it appears, is its best hope of survival.



Big pay rise: John Birt

Eric Reguly is the BBC's deputy-director general.

The fiercest price war in the history of Fleet Street was launched three years ago this month when News International cut the price of *The Sun* by 5p to 20p. It was a dramatic marketing tactic aimed at reversing years of declining sales of national newspapers and was followed, two months later, by a reduction in the price of *The Times* by 15p to 30p. Within a year almost every newspaper had joined in.

Now, three years on, some newspaper commentators are asking if the tactic really worked and suggesting that millions of pounds have been thrown away in lost profits, advertising on television and ever more desperate reader promotions — all to achieve an overall increase in sales of national daily newspapers of just 38,000 a day.

Even though that 38,000 is at least up instead of down, they have a point. Sales figures in June were even more depressing for the Editors of the *Express* and *Independent* titles than they were three years ago. Nor was there any real comfort for the *Mirror* Group titles (apart from *The People*) or the new Editors of *The Observer*.

Adding to the grief, all the daily and Sunday tabloids sold fewer copies last month than in January. Month on month, sales of the daily tabloids were down by 157,750 (in spite of Euro 96) and year on year by 76,700. Since January, only five of the 19 national newspapers, all broadsheets, have increased sales.

Fleet Street sells a cut-price success story

PAPER ROUND

Brian MacArthur

Sunday Express has plummeted by 436,000 and now sells fewer copies than *The Sunday Times*.

Yet the biggest success story has been *The Times*, which established a new record sale last month — obviously helped by selling at 10p on Mondays for the summer of sport — of 724,839. That meant that sales have now doubled since 1993, repeating the success of *The Daily Telegraph* when it cut its

price from twopence to a penny in 1930. Three years ago *The Times* lagged 650,000 behind *The Daily Telegraph*. The gap has now narrowed to 330,000.

It is easy to buy quick circulation fixes in Fleet Street. A serialisation of a sensational book, advertised on television on a Sunday night, always boosts sales — which quickly fall back once the serial is over. What has been remarkable about *The Times* since 1993 is that readers who were tempted to buy the paper at a cheaper price have obviously enjoyed what they read — a paper radically reorganised four years ago to be more reader-friendly — and carried on buying it. New readers who buy the 10p *Times* on Monday buy the 30p *Times* the rest of the week.

Successful newspapers always have editors with flair and courage and/or owners who love newspapers. That is true of *The Guardian* or *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph*, which have also been successes in the past five years, as it is of *The Sun*, the *Daily Mail* (which did not cut its price) or *The Times*. Yet editors with flair and courage do not always run successful newspapers. Sometimes their papers are stuck with the wrong image. Sometimes their owners fail to broadcast their merits or to support them through difficult times. There has been no more successful a tactic in helping those editors in this generation than the price war.

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NEWS

US-style welfare cuts under review

Radical proposals for privatising the welfare state and slashing spending on education are being examined by the Treasury as possible ways of cutting the size of the State in the next century.

Princess resigns from 93 charities

The Princess of Wales has left nearly 100 British and Commonwealth charities shocked and disappointed after she resigned as their patron.

Clinton backs down

President Clinton bowed to pressure from Europe to reach a highly political compromise over US sanctions against countries trading with Cuba.

Prayer book change

The Church of England has approved changes to its prayer book where references to God as male were removed and the words 'fellow men' changed to 'neighbour'.

Domesday verdict

A group of Essex villages mentioned in the Domesday Book have lost their battle in the High Court to halt a huge housing development.

New beef doubts

The safety of British beef by-products has been thrown into question again by a new scientific report from the European Commission.

Record donation

Wafic Said, a Middle-Eastern businessman, has broken all records with a £20-million donation to Oxford University to found a business school.

Troops withdrawn

Up to 500 troops have been withdrawn from Northern Ireland in a signal from the RUC and the Army that they believe the security crisis has abated.

Yeltsin meets Gore

President Yeltsin confounded speculation about his health by appearing in his normal self when he met Al Gore, the American Vice-President.

Mass grave search

UN workers will this week open a mass grave at Nova Kasaba, in an area where up to 2,700 Muslims are believed to have been buried after the fall of Srebrenica.

QC bowls wrong 'un

Ian Botham, the cricketer, underwent an hour of savage cross-questioning by the leading libel lawyer George Carman, QC, in the High Court as he was challenged over whether he told the truth.

Blockade plan

The Israeli Government has announced plans to ease the 19-week blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which has kept tens of thousands of Palestinians from their jobs.

History appeal

Nick Tate, the Government's curriculum chief, has made a personal appeal to save the study of British political history at GCSE.

Hair police deal blow for equality

One of the great inequalities between the sexes may soon be ended in New York. The city intends to ban hairdressers from charging women more than men to have their regular wash and blow-dry.



Scruffy, a badger adopted by a Barnsley woman, which is now house-trained and lives on a diet of dog food and custard creams

BUSINESS

Economy: The Chancellor's assertion only last week that public borrowing is clearly on a downward trend came into question after figures showed a much larger than expected PSBR in June.

SPORT

Golf: The possibility of John Daly retaining his Open Championship title grew when it was suggested that his style may be suited to the Royal Lytham and St Annes course.

ARTS

From first: The new director of the Proms concerts, Nicholas Kenyon, opens his first season on Friday. He will have trouble matching his predecessor's provocative premiere.

FEATURES

Wild times: Alan Root, film-maker, has had part of his leg torn off by a gorilla, his bottom chewed by a leopard and lost a finger to a puff adder.

Channel: Cross channel ferry operators have been given a boost by the Department of Trade in the battle for market share against Eurotunnel.

Olympic Games: Dean Capobianco, an Australian sprinter, and Annabella Bevilacqua, an Italian high jumper, tested positive for banned substances.

On the wings: The Lyric, Hamersmith brings William Wharton's novel Birdy to the stage. Better than the Alan Parker film, says Benedict Nightingale.

Surgical sideshow: Siamese twins attract national attention. They awaken a macabre curiosity and have become exhibits for the demonstration of modern medical magic.

Water: Yorkshire Water, which was fined by the industry regulator over its handling of last year's drought, faces a battle with shareholders over the appointment of its new chairman.

Football: Birmingham City, the ambitious Nationwide League first division club, have paid a club record to sign Paul Furlong, a forward, from Chelsea.

His ladies: Judy Garland and Barbra Streisand are appearing at the Café Royal - as impersonated by Jim Bailey.

Class act: Paul Frith, the latest designer to be tempted by the mainstream market, says it is far more difficult designing for a high street store, in his case Bhs.

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 66.0 points to close at 3632.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 86.2 to 85.5.

Cricket: Lancashire, the Benson and Hedges Cup winners, were brought down to earth at Edgbaston when Warwickshire beat them by 13 runs.

On the hop: Radio 4 may be on FM, but if you want to listen to it all the way to Wales, it is long wave that stays with you up hill and down dale.

BUSINESS

SPORT

ARTS

FEATURES

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,222

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 and a solution key at the bottom.

ACROSS
1 Obnoxious type getting kick with spurs, say (10)
2 Marx, nonetheless, unwanted in party? (4)
3 Revolutionary device going backwards and forwards (7)
4 Way to embrace during dance sequence (7)
5 Woman apt to switch starters on menu (9)
6 The girl I grumble about (5)
7 Conservative member's rise in social status (5)
8 Powerless to protect a number impossible to defend (9)
9 Fruit easy to digest is the focus of attention (9)
10 Revive motoring competition (5)
11 Dogmatist's extensive collection of religious books (5)
12 Citadel's produce raised in a poor soil (9)
13 Citadel's produce raised in a poor soil (9)
14 Crawl-crawly makes girl take cover (7)
15 Solution to Puzzle No 20,221

DOWN
1 Trump crossing river to a country out East (5)
2 Old way to suppress ethnic prejudice that increases Coventry's population (9)
3 Ferrari's alternative title gradually revealed (6,2,6)
4 Ruminant West Indian almost getting out (7)
5 Composer, in set pieces, is solemn (7)
6 Spanish friend observed Russian fighter entering a ring (5)
7 Recipes revised extremely liberally? Just so (9)
8 Management fees for temporary patching up (7,7)
9 Establish fixed scale as a politician, in case (9)
10 Dance around a top-class king with a stringed instrument (9)
11 News about city theologian makes us rejoice (7)
12 Artist occupying office in row of houses (7)
13 Spirit, in general, that's in short supply (5)
14 Old writer's phraseology (5)
This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 37 per cent of the solo competitors in the Birmingham Regional Final of The Times Aberlour Crossword Championship and by 40 per cent of the pairs.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

Table with regional forecasts for various UK locations including London, Manchester, and Edinburgh.

AA ROADWATCH

Table with road conditions and traffic updates for various routes.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

FLIGHT SAVERS advertisement for London to Amsterdam, Munich, and Nice.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be dry with sunshine, which will be prolonged in the west, slightly reduced in the east by patchy cloud.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions and temperatures around Britain yesterday.

ABROAD

Table showing weather forecasts for various international locations.

NOON TODAY

Weather map showing cloud cover and temperature at noon for various locations.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

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Handwritten signature and date: July 17, 1996

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'P&O and...' and 'PSBR... set back for Cl... strategy'.

Times Two Crossword, page 48



ARTS 32-34 Lulu of a cast, nightmare of a production



HOMES 35 A new community rises from the ruins of an old estate



SPORT 42-48 Drugs test trips Olympic athletes at first hurdle

TELEVISION AND RADIO Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 1996

P&O and Stena permitted to end Channel 'ferry war'

BY JONATHAN PRYNN TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT THE creation of a multi-billion pound ferry group to compete on equal terms with Eurotunnel...

transaction under competition legislation. The Government's decision to reverse the ban, which also applied to Hoverspeed...

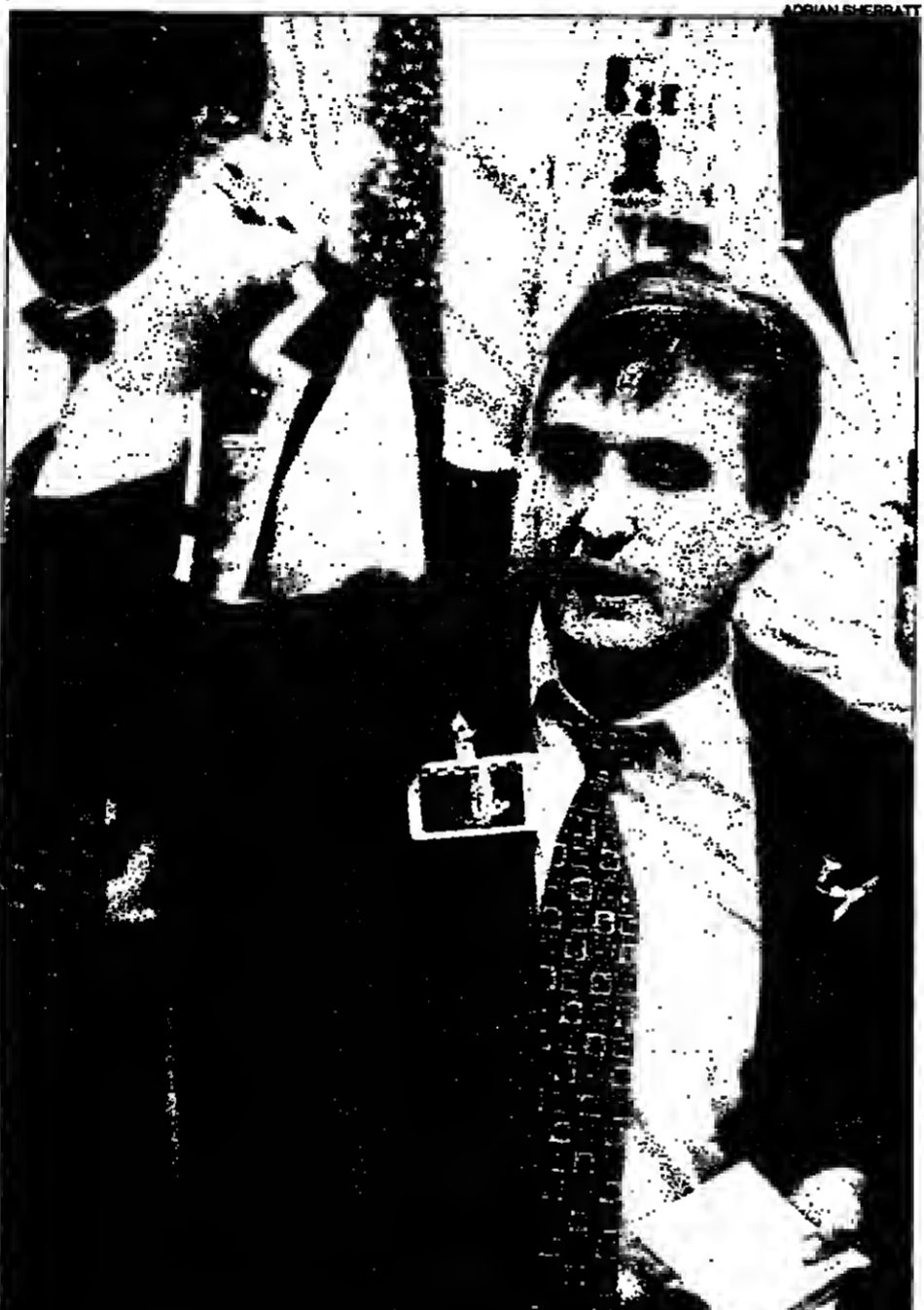
Stena workforces in Dover. It was warmly welcomed by the ferry companies, which have been badly hit by the outbreak of 'ferry wars'...

ry". He added: "Our preferred strategy remains to establish a strong, stand-alone business on Dover-Calais, but we have always said we will listen to any suggestions that might now arise from competitors in the light of today's announcement."

Talks between Stena and P&O executives about co-operating on the short Channel routes are expected to begin within weeks. Any merger would still need to clear British and European competition rules.

PSBR rise setback for Clarke strategy

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT THE CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer's assertion — only last week — that public borrowing is clearly on a downward trend...



A trader on the London International Financial Futures Exchange yesterday

London hit by Wall Street roller-coaster

BY JANET BUSH THE threat of meltdown on Wall Street spread to European stock markets yesterday and London posted its biggest one-day fall in more than two years. Favourable inflation figures from America, showing a rise of only 0.1 per cent in consumer prices in June, appeared to stabilise US shares briefly yesterday afternoon...

Yorkshire Water investors urged to oppose new chief

BY JASON NISSE YORKSHIRE WATER, which was fined £40 million by Ofwat, the industry regulator, because of its handling of last year's drought, faces a damaging battle with shareholders over the appointment of Brandon Gough, its new chairman. Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, is recommending investors oppose Mr Gough's appointment at next week's annual meeting because he will not be able to dedicate enough time to the job.

Leeds Utd manager could net £500,000

BY JASON NISSE HOWARD WILKINSON, the manager of Leeds United, could receive a bonus of more than £500,000 if the £16.5 million deal to sell the Premiership football club to Caspian Group goes through. Mr Wilkinson's contract, which was only agreed by the club in February, also says he will be paid his full salary and bonus until June 1999 if he is sacked at any time before that. The club has legal advice that this could cost £1.8 million. Caspian's offer may trigger a 'change of control clause' within Mr Wilkinson's contract, which gives him shares worth twice his annual salary if the club is taken over. The contract says he is paid £330,000 a year, but £50,000 of this is a guaranteed bonus and only around £170,000 is deemed 'salary'. However it is believed the clause could also apply to another annual payment of £110,000 within the contract, making the amount in Leeds shares he should receive £560,000. Caspian has offered to pay £16.5 million for the entire share capital of Leeds, but this does not include Mr Wilkinson's shares. A spokeswoman for Caspian said it did not believe the clause would be triggered as it "involves the movement of people, not equity."



Wilkinson: takeover bonus

BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data including FT-SE 100, US RATE, LONDON MONEY, STERLING, and DOLLAR.

Knight payout

Hundreds of elderly investors with Knight Williams, the firm of retirement income specialists now in liquidation, stand to receive compensation payments totalling up to £7 million after the former adviser was declared 'in default' by the Investors Compensation Scheme. Page 26, Pennington 27

BAA takeoff

Shares in BAA rose against the market trend yesterday as the airport operator emerged largely unscathed from a review by its regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority. BAA will continue to be allowed by the CAA to run all three London airports. Page 27, Tempus 28

FAIRPLACE SUMMER SCHOOL 'THE SHAPE OF BANKS TO COME'

Following the success of our first Summer School at Christ's College last year, when twelve countries were represented, we are pleased to offer a further programme for the leaders of tomorrow's financial institutions. Speakers will identify and focus on key strategic issues facing senior management in financial institutions today.

Table listing sessions for the Fairplace Summer School, including topics like 'The Outlook for Global Banking', 'Evaluating Bank Performance', etc.

CHRIST'S COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE 11-16 AUGUST 1996

Table listing topics for the Christ's College Summer School, including GLOBAL BANKING STRATEGIES, RESIDENTIAL, and SUMMER SCHOOL.

Enquiry / Registration Form with fields for name, address, phone, and email.



Clarke hails PFI benefits

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE economy "cannot afford to miss out on the gains to be had" from the Government's Private Finance Initiative, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said yesterday.

Knight Williams investors set for up to £7m payback

By Robert Miller

HUNDREDS of elderly investors with Knight Williams, the controversial firm of retirement income specialists now in liquidation, stand to receive compensation payments totalling up to £7 million after the former adviser was declared "in default" by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS).

Intense pressure from more than 100 MFIs and consumer bodies built up after elderly investors with the firm alleged they had been given unsuitable investment advice which had caused them to lose money.

The money was paid in cash and loan notes and was held in Knight Williams Portfolio Management, which is still trading.

Pennington, page 27



Top hat and tails Charles Brine, left, Formal Group's chief executive, with Jeff Banks, the fashion designer, and Cathy Brooks, a model, after the company, which owns Prouppia, Youngs Formal

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Scotland tipped for \$1.5bn Hyundai site

HYUNDAI ELECTRONICS, of South Korea, has joined its country's economic push into Europe, announcing plans to build a \$1.5 billion microchip plant in the United Kingdom — in Scotland or Northern Ireland — or in the Irish Republic.

Jefferson earnings hit

JEFFERSON SMURFIT Corporation, the American associate of the Irish Republic's Jefferson Smurfit Group, yesterday reported a sharp drop in second quarter earnings to \$27 million from \$66 million.

Mobile phone change

THE Department of Trade and Industry has told Vodafone and Cellnet, the two largest mobile phone companies, to close their analogue networks by 2005 and replace them with digital networks.

UNO valued at £18m

UNO, the out-of-town furniture retailer, will be capitalised at £18.8 million when it floats on the Alternative Investment Market on Monday.

Electricity levy cut

STEPHEN LITTLECHILD, the electricity regulator, yesterday confirmed that the levy on electricity bills to pay for renewable sources of energy would be cut to 3.7 per cent on November 1.

First Information boost

FIRST INFORMATION, the multimedia group whose shares trade on the Alternative Investment Market, gained sales of £1.2 million from the launch of its first CD-ROM titles in the six months to April 30.

Courtaulds holds steady

COURTAULDS, the fibres, chemicals and coatings company, said current trading in most businesses was in line with or ahead of last year, although pre-tax profits for the first quarter are slightly below the same period of 1995 because of the effect of last year's disposals.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BERRY, Mrs BESSIE, MARGARET WIDOW late of 145, Leitch Road, Waltham, London NW10 on 22 February 1996. Estate about £20,000.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Insolvency Act 1986, section 109, has been applied to the above named company.

LEGAL NOTICES

INCREASED PAYMENT TO CREDITORS TRINITY INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED. A Scheme of Arrangement was approved by the creditors of Trinity Insurance Company Limited ("Trinity") and subsequently became effective on 18 March 1993 after receiving High Court Sanction.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE Insolvency Act 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Insolvency Act 1986, section 109, has been applied to the above named company.

INCREASED PAYMENT TO CREDITORS ANDREW WEIR INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED. A Scheme of Arrangement was approved by the creditors of Andrew Weir Insurance Company Limited ("Andrew Weir") and subsequently became effective on 14 April 1994 after receiving High Court Sanction.

INCREASED PAYMENT TO CREDITORS BRYANSTON INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED. A Scheme of Arrangement was approved by the creditors of Bryanston Insurance Company Limited ("Bryanston") and subsequently became effective on 13 April 1994 after receiving High Court Sanction.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE Insolvency Act 1986. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Insolvency Act 1986, section 109, has been applied to the above named company.

INCREASED PAYMENT TO CREDITORS. A Scheme of Arrangement was approved by the creditors of the above named company.

INCREASED PAYMENT TO CREDITORS. A Scheme of Arrangement was approved by the creditors of the above named company.

Think-tank reckons jobs total 4.3m

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S underlying unemployment is twice that indicated by government statistics, according to an independent jobs think-tank.

The Employment Policy Institute (EPI) yesterday published a new quarterly audit that puts the UK total at 4.3 million, 2 million more than the official figures.

Car sales in EU go into reverse

Car sales in the European Union fell 9 per cent last month, according to the Association of European Motor Manufacturers, dealing a blow to hopes of a resurgence in registrations this year.

Yorkshire Electricity warning

FRESH doubts were raised yesterday about competition in household electricity supply after Yorkshire Electricity gave warning that customers least able to pay will face higher bills.

Bid fails

Westminster Health Care has failed in its pursuit of Goldborough Healthcare after receiving acceptances of only 41 per cent yesterday, the closing day for the £69 million hostile offer.

Digital plus

Digital Animations, the software developer based in Glasgow, is to be 20 per cent owned by 3i Group when it begins trading on the Alternative Investment Market next Wednesday.

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100% Local Call Access AOL is the first online service that gives you 100% local call access from anywhere in the UK. Includes a list of Tourist Rates for various countries.

CAA review gives airports group a lift. Includes a large graphic of a person's face and text about airport reviews.

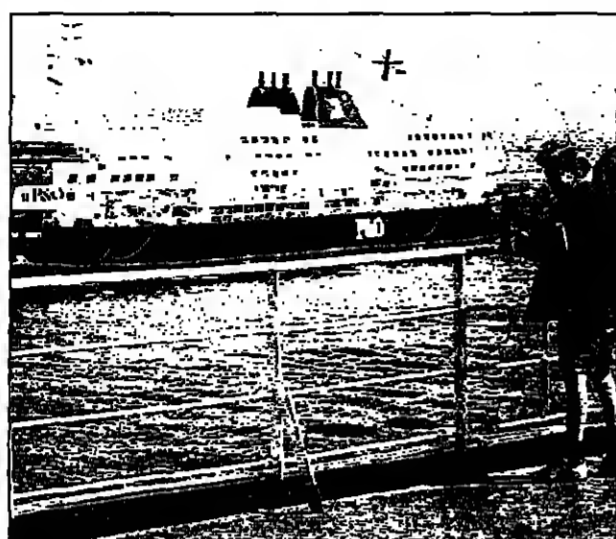
STOCK MARKET



KAREN ZAGOR

Governor and Wall Street deal double blow to shares

THERE was little solace to be found in the City yesterday, where investors took a battering first from Wall Street and then from Eddie George, Bank of England Governor...



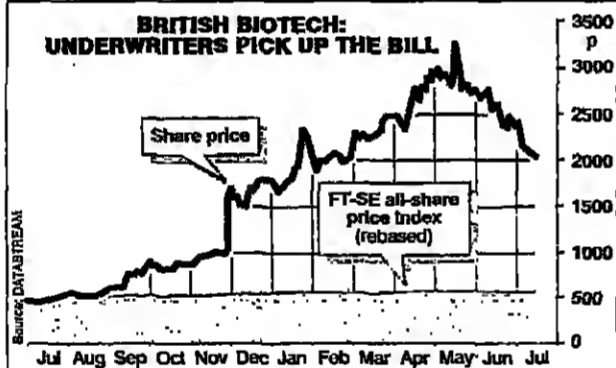
P&O shares found it plain sailing in a turbulent market

Vancouver Aids conference. Elsewhere in the pharmaceutical sector, the former stock market darling British Biotech, which traded as high as £35 in May, managed to shake off its worst losses of the day...

Blenheim, the exhibitions group, was one of the biggest winners on the day amid expectations of an imminent bid for the company...

than their previous day's close and 20p below the rights share of £20.50. The £143 million rights issue closes today...

Other unpopular biotech issues included Celtech, down 36p to 509p, and Chromosome, off 15p to 31p. Orange lost 7.5p to 182.5p as the market registered its lack of enthusiasm for cellular telephone companies...



BRITISH BIOTECH: UNDERWRITERS PICK UP THE BILL

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE, ICIS-LOR (London & Japan), and GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES. Lists various commodities like cocoa, coffee, wheat, and sugar with their respective prices.

LIFFE OPTIONS

Table showing Liffe Options for various commodities including Gold, Silver, and Oil, with columns for Call/Put prices and expiration dates.

and held its gains, climbing 15p to 493p on news that the Civil Aviation Authority, its regulator, had agreed to an unexpectedly generous pricing formula...

P&O was another success story, rising 8p to 500p after a decision by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, to lift restrictions on alliances between cross-Channel ferry operators...

British Energy, which rallied private investors on Monday by becoming the first privatisation to open at a discount on the first day of dealings since BP II, continued to fall...

Blair's prospects of entering the FT-SE 100 declined a little when its shares edged 3.5p lower to 209p. Hunting, the defence and aviation company, was one of the biggest losers of the day...

Speculation that United News & Media is planning to bid for Blenheim sent shares in United News & Media 7p lower to 62p.

GIILT-EDGED: In keeping with the general, negative tenor of the market, gilt lists ground. The biggest blow was struck by unexpectedly high PSBR numbers for June...

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average extended its losses in early trading. At midday, the index was down 36.62 points at 5,312.89.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of Major Indices including New York (Dow Jones, S&P Composite), Tokyo (Nikkei Average), Hong Kong (Hang Seng), Amsterdam (EEX Index), Sydney (ASX), Frankfurt (DAX), Singapore (Straits), Brussels (General), Paris (CAC-40), Zurich (SIX Gen), London (FT 100, FT 250, FT-SE All-Share, etc.), and Exchange Rates.

RECENT ISSUES

Table of Recent Issues listing companies like AFA Systems, Alimax, BATM Advd Cms, Belhaven Brewery, British Energy, etc., with their share prices and changes.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table of Rights Issues listing companies like Allen n/p, Cowie n/p, Dixon Mtrs n/p, etc., with their share prices and changes.

MAJOR CHANGES

Table of Major Changes listing companies like Blenheim Gp, AFA, Party, Vanguard, Friendly Hotels, etc., with their share prices and changes.

TEMPUS Sauce for the goose

BAA's lukewarm acceptance of the new pricing formula for landing charges is a bit like the recipient of the golden goose muttering about the cost of feeding the bird. There can be no doubt that BAA has sailed through this regulatory review...

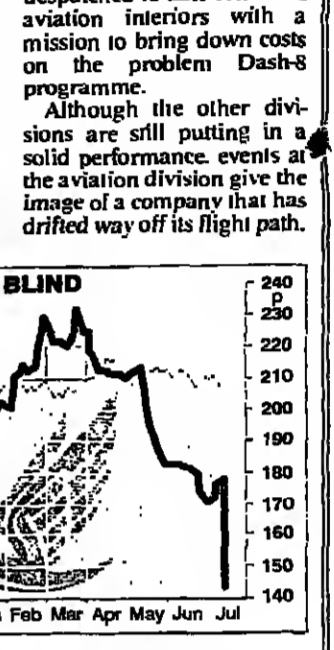
Hunting

WHEN Hunting diversified the company into oil and aviation, its hope was that the two new divisions would prevent the company depending too heavily on its traditional defence markets. Oil has performed well, as has defence - boosted by the contract to run the government's Atomic Weapons Establishment...

Life Insurance

THERE is an adage in the City, coined after the stock market's boom-bust years in the 1980s: don't buy equities in the same year the stock-brokers are paid their bonuses. The theory goes that bonuses follow a strong bull run and it is folly to buy at the top of the market...

FLYING BLIND



WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street market data including major indices (Dow Jones, S&P 500, Nasdaq), sector indices, and individual stock prices.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures for FT-SE 100, FT-SE 250, Three Month Sterling, Three Mth Euro Yen, Three Mth Euro DM, Long Gilt, Japanese Govt Bond, German Govt Bd Bond, Three month ECU, Euro Swiss Franc, Italian Govt Bond, and Prime Bank Bills.

MONEY RATES (%)

Table of Money Rates (%) for various currencies and terms (1mth, 3mth, 6mth, 12mth).

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European Money Deposits (%) for various currencies and terms (7 day, 1mth, 3mth, 6mth, Call).

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of Gold/Precious Metals prices for Bullion, Platinum, and Rhodium.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of Sterling Spot and Forward Rates for various currencies and terms (1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months).

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'City was out of' and 'Dow Jones' with a large graphic of a person's face.

Renewed Eighties euphoria is gripping London and New York

City warriors strut out once again

Excess on Wall Street in new 'live now' mood

Jon Ashworth says the picture is horribly reminiscent of the days of Big Bang

What fun the Eighties were. The archetypal braces-clad City gent cruised the streets in his red...

Renewed Eighties euphoria has been much in evidence, from a soaring stock market and huge new issue premiums...

There are differences, of course - the Porsche is more likely to be a personalised TVR costing up to £45,000...

The picture is horribly reminiscent of the days when Big Bang in 1986 swept the City off the Stock Exchange floor...

Shades of the old days remain, with Balls Brothers offering a Methuselah of Louis Roederer to customers correctly predicting the value of the dollar against the pound...



Futures traders in London yesterday as billions were wiped off the stock market

direct-dial phones. Takeovers and mergers have transformed City securities houses and sent headhunters scrambling for business...

Mr Baines said: "I don't know a firm that is not having a record year. Some have made as much in the first six months as in the whole of last year..."

The issue is highlighted by comparisons across the Atlantic, where pay packages are running at 50 to 60 per cent higher. Mr Baines said: "You're talking double-figure millions over there. Here, it's single-figure millions."

Winterflood Securities, said: "Of course, all the old signs are here, analysts getting more money, all stoking the fire, but the media's been on this back for so long: Wall Street's got to crash..."

The Eighties euphoria has split into the leisure market, with traders and brokers splashing out on ever-exotic holidays. On the property front, City gent's burnt in the Docklands slump have returned with renewed zeal...

market, with an emphasis among advisers on getting the issue away and raking in the fees. Huge premiums on new issues generally left fund managers nervous. Shares in Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge store, soared 25 per cent in the first day's trading...

the issue at least 12 times. One need only look at the high-flying biotechnology sector, which has come crashing to earth in the past few weeks...

Observers agree on one thing: the TVR has replaced the Porsche as the car of the moment. "It seems to be the car to be seen in," said Peter Smith, sales manager of The TVR Centre...

Oracle cost burdens to broadcasters. Same story this time, but writ larger. A few careful specialists have succeeded as niche multimedia publishers...

Richard Thomson asks if it is time for a last cigar before the fun ends

When you see 22-year-old investment bankers in red braces puffing on large Havana cigars with expressions that say 'I've just received a bonus that's bigger than you can imagine'...

New York is in the grip of a cigar craze which, though not as bad as some of the worst 1980s excesses, carries obvious overtones of over-indulgence.

Taken with other reliable indicators, the message is disturbing. We have been here before, and the last time it ended in a crash. A fin de siècle decadence has settled over the stock market...

Since much of New York depends on Wall Street's profits, the euphoria that has gripped the stock market for the past year is reflected on the streets of Manhattan. Take, for example, the Stretch Limo Index...

Or look at the Manhattan property market, where rents have surpassed the ridiculously high levels hit in the late 1980s and purchase prices are said to be going through the roof...

Consumer spending has been flat generally, but luxury retailers such as Gucci and a host of chic designers can hardly keep up with the demand for their expensive goods from consumers enjoying their stock market profits...



Traders at work in New York as the Dow neared its 161-point fall on Monday

stocks that in normal times could probably not have been sold. For example, Saks Fifth Avenue, which failed to issue shares once before and has produced losses for the past five years, not only successfully sold its stock recently but saw it race up from \$25 to \$34 within days...

Even Planet Hollywood, the restaurant chain, issued shares amid criticism about its fundamental value. But investors rushed in because they knew everyone else would be buying and the shares nearly doubled in value in the first few days...

The share frenzy has been driven by small investors pouring money into mutual funds - the US equivalent of unit trusts. In the first six months of this year, a record \$19.5 billion - more than for the whole of last year - has come into mutuals...

The euphoria, however, has been a bonanza for Wall Street, where this month the number

of people employed in the financial sector will pass the previous record set in the month before the October 1987 crash.

The 40 per cent profit surge announced by JP Morgan for its second quarter was typical of the industry's buoyancy. Meanwhile, the 23-year-old investment bankers - and everyone else - really have

received bonuses beyond most people's wildest dreams. Expectations are so high that when CS First Boston tried to limit its bonus levels more than two dozen senior executives who had been expecting a windfall walked out...

Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenheim, the fund management group, says: "The bull market is over. The bounce back from last Friday's 100-point fall on the Dow Jones index is the weakest we've seen all year..."

Most ominous of all is that in spite of the money pouring into mutuals, the market has moved up about only seven per cent. Few analysts believe the market is heading for a 1987 style crash, but a gradual decline for the rest of 1996 and 1997 is more likely. Time, perhaps, for a last cigar and a ride in a stretch limo before the fun ends.

Luxury retailers can hardly keep up?

Dow Jones sneeze is a local difficulty

Last month, it was fear of the Fed that drove US prices down; but this time it is dawning reality. Cheap equity capital has financed over-expansion...

rather a coughing fit. The US market has been swallowing too many half-plausible stories, and some have stuck in its throat. Ostriches? Forget our Anglo-Australian follies...

Chips have followed the computers that need them into the technology trap - the inevitable slide from pioneering into a plain commodity market. This process took a measurable time in the past:

chemicals, nuclear power and then petrochemicals each had long enough in the sun to acquire a nice glow. Electronic events, however, move near the speed of light...

who founded the Slug and Lettuce pub chain hardly has time to enjoy his favourite tippie - Pimms with extra gin.

a chase-your-tail game as old as farming: the hog cycle. Prices rise, so put the sows to rest. Next year, a glut. Only those out of step make money.

things labelled "multimedia". We have been here before. Remember the excitement over Teletext? Prestel, which was to be the Internet of its time, is now just a tool of the travel trade, and Ceefax and

Oracle cost burdens to broadcasters. Same story this time, but writ larger.

A few careful specialists have succeeded as niche multimedia publishers, but the conglomerates have lost more money than they are ever likely to make. And the Net itself seems to be pure trap, except for the leading information services. Net servers have competed margins clean away...

Yet the US small company market, and especially Nasdaq, is cluttered with com-

panies in these areas. Many will simply fade away. A few have declared profits: even worse. The figures turn them from pure speculations to companies with price earnings ratios of up to 600; everyone loses hope.

The answer, of course, lies in the bull market itself, and the imaginations of the mutual fund promoters who have served it - themes explored elsewhere in these pages. But that leaves one question unanswered: why should London, and still more pointedly Tokyo, have followed Wall Street down?

Faylov knew the answer: it is a conditioned reflex; for there is no objective justification for global nerves. The Dow may now be near the end of a routine 10 per cent correction, and the tell-tale ratios, notably the bond-yield earnings ratio, are by no means abnormal.

Meanwhile, buyers of British Energy have lost as much money in two trading days as those who bought the Dow at its June peak.

It is true that the US derivatives market is still looking for further falls, but this may be pure hedging. Even if it is not, remember that this is a correction special to Wall Street.

Britain and Japan are at a much earlier stage of recovery, with good earnings prospects. British yields remain generous, and London has virtually no high-tech earthquake zone. The institutions are unusually liquid, and corporate treasurers are buyers of stock, not sellers. Wall Street's warning should be London's opportunity.

MORAG PRESTON

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sheepish feeling

HUGH CORBETT, the frothy publican and owner of the Tup pubs, was brought to task for nodding off at Walton Street Magistrates' Court. The colourful Corbett, who was in court appointing a second licensee to share the responsibility of running his new string of pubs...

Indexed odds

IG INDEX, the City markets' bookie, is gambling on a deal close to home - whether the merger talks between rivals City Index and Sporting Index will go ahead. Stuart Wheeler, IG managing director, has made a sportsman's bet with colleagues that the companies have a 60 per cent chance of merging...

Creamed off

SACKING directors is clearly getting more expensive. A report published yesterday

by PIRC, the corporate governance consultancy, shows just how urgent it is for companies to start complying with the recommendations of the Greenbury committee on rolling contracts for directors



"I had a bit of luck - my allocation was nil"

lasting only one year. In 1994, the top 250 companies paid out £19.8 million in compensation to departing directors. In 1995, compensation rose to £23.2 million. And in the first six months of this year, £22.8 million was paid out. It looks like being a record year for dismissed fat cats.

AN UNFORTUNATELY placed advertisement in a national newspaper yesterday put a rather sinister slant on the scaling down of Siemens's plans for its £1.1 billion investment in North Tyneside. After reading that the German electronics giant may not go ahead with the second phase of the planned development at the Tyneside plant, I turned the page only to discover a recruitment advertisement for Siemens, with a strapline that boasts:

"Wherever you come from, we know where you're going to."

Trim service

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain heading for flotation, is making waves with an innovative shopping service. To avoid long queues and appease frustrated yachting and locals alike, the tiny Somerfield store in West Cowes, which took an extra £52,000 at the height of last year's race week, has installed a fax machine to receive grocery orders. Hungry shoppers, who spend an average of £300 per visit, are already feeding their faxes with shopping lists for smoked salmon and champagne, which the supermarket will pack in boxes ready to be collected.

Advertisement for FINSBURY ASSET MANAGEMENT. Features a large image of a syringe and the text: 'A REAL BOOSTER. When we launched the first ever investment trust dedicated to the Pharmaceutical sector worldwide, we suggested that it might be a shot in the arm for your portfolio. The fact that it has grown by 56%* in one year is something of a booster. Get the facts by calling (local rate) 0990 210 270, or simply return the coupon below.'

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections like 'FIRST DIRECT' and 'UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE'.

Advertisement for 'first direct' featuring a watch and the slogan 'In the time it takes to check a pulse I can check my balance.' Includes phone number 0800 24 24 24.

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, possibly for a financial institution or related service, with some illegible text.



MUSIC 1

Nights in the Albert Hall: a new broom at the Proms offers a new approach to new music



MUSIC 2

... while that old provocateur, Sir Harrison Birtwistle, brings a song to the Almeida

THE TIMES ARTS



OFFER

Special prices for Riverdance and other top shows: see our Theatre Club panel



TOMORROW

Uma Thurman's latest movie, and all the other new releases: read Geoff Brown's verdict

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

SONG is enjoying a good showing at this year's Almeida Opera. On Sunday, Mary Wiegold's Songbook, that unbound collection of well, not exactly commissions but gentle persuasions, presented a trilogy of new and newish works for voice and the dark, eloquent combination of clarinets, viola, cello and double-bass which is the Composers Ensemble.

Voices in the dark

Songbook Almeida

There were 11 first performances and nine London premieres. Classics of the repertoire strode between them: Colin Matthews's powerful, Britten-esque Contata on the death of Antony, sung by mezzo-soprano Pamela Helen Stephens; Nicholas Maw's delicately complementary The Head of Orpheus; and Harrison Birtwistle's gentle, disturbing Paul Celan setting, White and Light, both sung by Wiegold herself.

Noer Kondrup's affecting Lullaby, syllabic yet supple of verbal inflection, and circled by clarinet, bass clarinet and the three lower strings; and in Hilary Tann's witty, chatty R.S. Thomas setting, Mother and Son. This song revealed what too many others did not: a truly imaginative understanding of both the human voice and the instruments.

HILARY FINCH

Nicholas Kenyon gives Richard Morrison a tour of the premieres in his first year as Proms director

It was a scandal, a triumph, a disgrace, a cheeky piece of provocation. All of that was said about Sir Harrison Birtwistle's Panic when this short but hugely uncompromising creation was premiered on the Last Night of last year's Proms — and, more to the point, televised live at peak viewing time on Saturday-night BBC1.

His successor as Proms masterchef, Nicholas Kenyon, has already fielded his fair share of outrage from the Disgusteds of Tunbridge Wells, because his day-job is running Radio 3 (or "ruining Radio 3", if you subscribe to the Gerald Kaufman view). So, as Kenyon prepares to launch his first Proms season on Friday, does he have a view on the Panic Affair? Was it a welcome shock to BBC1 viewers, or a mega-decibel public relations disaster?



Nicholas Kenyon: "These days there are not so many causes to be fought. It's more a question of going for quality"

logical that he should be given a commission for the Last Night. And the fact that the piece has had several more performances since then is a complete vindication.

memories," Kenyon says. "That's one of the most interesting things about new music as we approach the millennium. I think it's a richness, rather than a restriction."

So will Kenyon try to appease the many special-interest groups that come banging on the Proms' door? "No. If you start trying to appease people you end up in the middle of a world war. There are bound to be omissions. I have nothing against hard-line minimalist music, although, as it happens, there isn't any here."

musical? Kenyon is optimistic — but that's his job. "Look at the complete absence of interest in new music displayed by a certain commercial broadcaster," he says. (He means Classic FM.) "It's perfectly reasonable behaviour for them. But equally, there is a commitment at the BBC to do the things that make us different. After all, what do you have a licence fee for, except to invest in the future?"

The absence of women composers from the Proms is a mistake

Despite the verbal war that Panic triggered in the press? "The only thing the press usually wants is a good fight. So any lobby group like the Hecklers — which had no intellectual substance whatsoever — makes the front pages."

What, though, of Kenyon's general philosophy? Will he be putting the Proms at the cutting-edge of the avant-garde, as William Glock did in the Sixties — provoking professional hatreds that stretch to this day, and mounting premieres that occasionally produced minor riots?

Kenyon believes, along with most music critics, that Britain currently has more good composers than any other country. If that is true, Radio 3 must be given some of the credit. It will spend £150,000 this year on commissions: rehearsal and performance costs come on top of that. But how much finger will John Birt's New Model BBC go on funding Radio 3's promotion of contemporary

Kenyon's composers would certainly have to dawdle to Olympic standards if they were to beat the record for non-delivery held by the eminent Hungarian composer György Ligeti. "Long before my time the BBC commissioned him to write an opera for English National Opera," Kenyon says. "Who knows? It might yet come to pass."

Don't book yet. ● The BBC Proms season begins on Friday in the Albert Hall (8.15-8.59.82.12), with live broadcasts each evening on Radio 3.

Get your ears bent back

WHAT is that tune trying to escape from Richard Causton's Non mi compo male? Actually, the clue is in the title but if you translate it as "I am not behaving badly" — which in the print English setting of the Pitville Pump Room, you are likely to do — you won't get it until Aina's Misbehavin' emerges intact at the end.

Hind/Hodges Leopold Trio Cheltenham Festival

Finnissy does, rather disappointingly, after so much of more subtle interest, in his Wild Flowers. But it is better to bend the ear in one way or another than to leave it untouched, which was the negative effect of some of the less sophisticated pieces from the piano workshop session of the Society for the Promotion of New Music in Cheltenham the day before.

Though not long out of the Royal Academy of Music, the trio is an accomplished ensemble secure enough and flexible enough to take risks. They exchanged ideas most imaginatively with Adès in Mozart's Piano Quartet in G minor, and they did not shrink from giving the first British performance of music as cryptic and as demanding as is contained in György Kurtág's Signs, Games and Messages.

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Keep your ears open and your eyes shut. ROMAN... [Image of a person's face]

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OPERA 1

Superb music but the staging has problems: Glyndebourne opens its first *Lulu*



OPERA 2

The Gertrude Stein and Virgil Thomson *Four Saints in Three Acts* comes to London

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 3

... and Kent Nagano conducts Berlioz's massive *Damnation of Faust* in the Barbican



YOUNG ARTS

Sweet sounds on Guernsey: a bright new string quartet emerges from the Ladies' College

OPERA: Rodney Milnes on Glyndebourne's new staging of Berg's *Lulu*; plus Virgil Thomson and Berlioz in London

Keep your ears open and your eyes shut

Few operatic events have been awaited as eagerly as Glyndebourne's first staging of *Lulu*, one of this century's great and defining masterpieces, and one unseen in the UK for nearly a decade (just as eagerly awaited a production by English National Opera had to be cancelled in the wake of poor box-office response to its bold "20-Plus" season in 1990).

The buzz from Sussex has been audible since the project was first announced two years ago, but — hard and charitably as one may search for mealy-mouthed excuses along the lines of "minor miscalculations" or "easily adjustable problems" — the only sound on Monday was that unmistakable "phurr-r-r-r-lump" of an almighty flop.

Visually and dramatically, that is, musically the evening is hugely rewarding. Times change: when *Lulu* (1935) was first performed in this country by guest companies in the 1960s, it was still "difficult", still "nasty modern music". The quality of Glyndebourne's musical preparation has been legendary for 60 years, and Andrew Davis, the London Philharmonic and an exceptionally well chosen cast have plainly worked their socks off to bring out the beauties and strengths of Berg's score.

The new theatre might have been designed to accommodate a tricky 20th-century piece such as this: you can hear everything, the structure, the way the score is put together — and why — without any loss of overall warmth or silky sensuousness (Berg was not Viennese for nothing). The melodies — and they are melodies to all ears save those expecting every tune to sound like *Land of Hope and Glory* — ravish the ear. Davis gives the black humour full rein (it

It's all just flat and anonymous; not funny, not horrifying, not anything

hadn't before noticed a sly Strauss parody when the pimp sings about placing girls from quite the best families in brothels) and ensures that you can hear and relish the off-stage music, whether for dance band or mock-barrel organ. The playing is wonderfully well balanced, always dramatically alive.

Just as impressive is the preparation of the singers: what they have to do never sounds "difficult", which of course it is, hideously. Christine Schäfer (*Lulu*) does not have a huge voice, but in a house this size and with so considerate a conductor it does not matter: her singing is pure, unstrained, as expressively phrased as if she were in Mozart.

The same is true of Kathryn Harries as Countess Geschwitz, and, although no Alva can ever sound entirely unstrained, David Kuebler. Such fine artists as Patricia Bardon, Neil Jenkins and Jonathan Veira, sharing many small roles between them, sound as though they have been singing Berg all their lives.

The main cause of reactions surpassing bemusement and approaching crassness at Graham Vick's production is the way so promising a cast is left dangling in the wind. At what stage — the eternal question with great operatic disasters — could it have been seen that something might be going ever so slightly awry? At first sight of Paul Brown's permanent set, perhaps. This is a curved wall in Glyndebourne red brick with Glyndebourne pine doors. In case anyone misses the oh-so-subtle point that the action is supposed to be "us", the Animal Trainer flashes a mirror at us in the Prologue. That's a fairly good one-off joke, but not one to justify a set that is frankly inadequate to suggest loca-



"Her singing is as expressively phrased as if she were in Mozart": Christine Schäfer as *Lulu*

ons as various as Dr Schön's *haut-bourgeois* mansion and the squalor of Jack the Ripper's Whitechapel.

The modern-dress costumes are not "us". Dr Schön is dressed as TV's Arthur Daley, an odd visual reference for a newspaper tycoon. *Lulu* is saddled with a series of near-topless, sideless and bottomless tart's frocks of a vulgarity familiar to those attending ritzy West End discos but seldom seen in Sussex. Other costumes are oddly anonymous; few help define character, save for the wino outfit and tam-o'-shanter for

Schigolch (Norman Bailey); some ill-define it, like the naïf outfits for the Athlete, and sadly the coarseness seeps over into Donald Maxwell's stinging, just as Wolfgang Schöne sounds a little more like Arthur Daley than, say, Conrad Black.

The big problem with Vick's production, though, is his failure to devise a dramatic language in which the epic-expressionist action can naturally unfold. It's all flat and anonymous; not funny, not horrifying, not anything. Why should this particular Dr Schön go mad? Who is this

Lulu? Poor Schäfer, who has the *physique du rôle* in spades, is a blank canvas awaiting the artist. Neither a child, a victim, nor a predator. No humour, no mischief, no just a deadpan, matter-of-fact young woman. And she could be outstanding. From this bland, characterless background Schigolch salvages something of Berg's vision, Schöne manages one chilling smile as Jack the Ripper, and Jenkins, Bardon and Veira have their moments. But, apart from Davis, this is a profoundly dispiriting evening.

Fun of a surreal kind

WHEN I interviewed Virgil Thomson shortly before that grand old man of American letters and notes died, I asked if he had any advice for a cub critic. "Just answer the question 'what was it like?'," he said. So here goes...

Kevin Henderson, principal of Trinity College of Music, also took some good advice. Thomson urged that he should one day stage Thomson's opera *Four Saints in Three Acts* and "make it come out right". He did, and it has. Trinity's production (by Leah Hausman) for the City of London Festival is musically sure-footed, and captures that fugitive and irresistibly tender wit which pervades Thomson's collaboration with Gertrude Stein.

It is a pity that the barn-like acoustics of Spitalfields Market Opera (though Thomson, I suspect, would have enjoyed its ambience, among baseball courts, cafe and merry-go-rounds) made the audience strain to catch the words.

Stein said she wrote "to tell what could be told if one did not tell anything". Thomson

Four Saints in Three Acts Spitalfields Market Opera

responded to her abstract and surreal verbal montage with the tunes and harmonies of chant, psalmody and children's songs. "If a text is set correctly for the sound of it," he said, "the meaning will take care of itself."

And it does. *Four Saints* creates the same sensation that exists when following a play in an unknown language, yet understanding every word. A small chorus of saints tell us of the lives of the St Therasas (Magna Tomasdottir, John Arnold), St Ignatius (Sjaak van der Bent), St Settlement (Monika Stache) and St Chavez (James Geer) in the form of a Sunday-school entertainment. And Thomson's themes of peace between the sexes, community of faith and the production of miracles are, sure enough, conjured out of

this simply but tellingly choreographed production, conducted with equal eloquence by Gregory Rose.

The expression and gestures of gleeful seriousness on the faces of the white-clad chorus counteract nicely the idiosyncrasies of individual saints. The Comper, Devon Harrison, and Commere, Emily Sheard, keep them all in order. For Act II they play play ring o' roses and race with egg and spoon. A little silver house descends ("How many doors? How many floors?"); then obsessive mathematics gives way to one of Thomson's wonderful big tunes, trombone-led, as the scene changes.

Act III (not the last one, despite the title) contains St Ignatius's little show-stopper, *Pigeons on the grass alas*, describing his vision of the Holy Spirit — to which the only possible reply can be "He asked for a distant magpie/As if that made a difference". A dance, a drum-roll and all the saints from their labours rest.

HILARY FINCH

Good tunes from the devil

LSO/Nagano Barbican

BERLIOZ read Goethe's *Faust* as a young man and, in the height of inspiration, dashed off eight musical scenes and sent them to its author. No response came, and Berlioz withdrew the work from publication. However, the depth of *Faust*'s impact on the composer is apparent in every bar of the score that eventually evolved 15 years later each episode, each image is portrayed with startling, at times almost alarming clarity. In *The Damnation of Faust* Berlioz's imagination was charged as if with a mission: the result is one of the symphonic masterpieces of the Romantic era.

The *Damnation of Faust* cannot be done on a small scale and this is one reason why it is performed only rarely. The joint forces of the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus fitted somewhat snugly into the Barbican, and at times the performance seemed boxed in, as if the hall could barely contain the brilliance of Berlioz's scoring, or the visionary quality of a work conceived before its time.

In addition to the restrictions of the acoustics, it must also be said that Kent Nagano's interpretation had its limitations. His conducting is a model of clarity, and the work hung together well enough. But from time to time his direction felt more perfunctory than inspiring, as in

LSO/Nagano Barbican

the passage where Faust hears the Easter hymn and is turned from suicide, or the final apotheosis of Marguerite. The faster-moving, showier numbers were more successful.

Nagano and the LSO were joined by a classy line-up of soloists. Olga Borodina (replacing Susan Graham at short notice) sang Marguerite's soliloquies perfectly, conveying her hopes and fears with complete vocal assurance and compelling musical insight. Equally striking was the Italian tenor Giuseppe Sabbatini as Faust.

In *The Damnation of Faust* the devil may not have all the good tunes but he certainly has many of the most dramatic moments. If the young baritone Natale De Carolis did not always bring the necessary characterisation to the role of Mephistopheles, there is no doubting the quality of his voice. The LSO Chorus sang with gusto and reverence as required, and the excellent New London Children's Choir added a touch of radiance to the final heavenly scene. All in all, a memorable evening, though I could have done without the heavy-handed colour coding of the lighting effects.

TESS KNIGHTON

Channelled towards virtuosity

THE unsuspecting visitor to Guernsey in late spring may well be deceived into thinking that the island has everything. Traffic that drifts along at 30mph and stops for pedestrians; subtropical flora and bluebells; cuckoos and puffins; home-made ice-cream and oysters. Everything, that is, except a resident professional string quartet. But on a hill-top called Les Gravées, change is in the air.

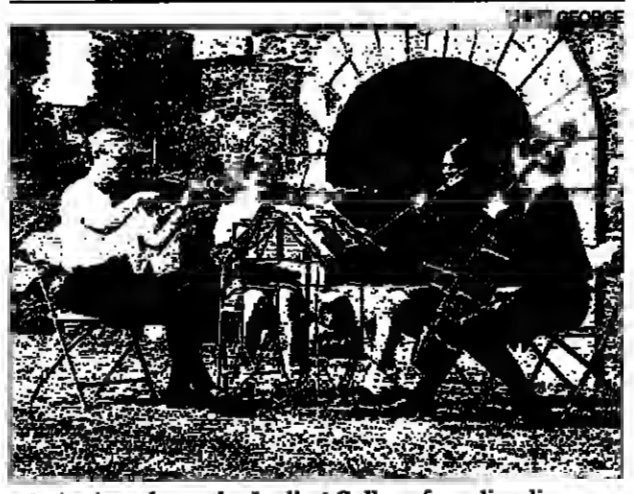
The eyes may be still very much fixed on the music-stands, but the sound is a fine, close blend, the solo entries robust. As the first violin draws back to the second subject of Dvořák's *American Quartet*, a slight side-step to the minor key shows just how tricky intonation can be at that point.

Suddenly the second violin leads the way into a spikily imitative passage, asserting its right to be a soloist, and also to speak out. "When we get to figure eight, there should be a change of mood, shouldn't there? I mean, like, this is something quite new?" "Yes!" The first violin concurs. "And make sure that the speed picks up at six. It's up to you to really keep it going."

The first violin, Angharad Lewis-Jones, is 18; the second, Debra Venn, just 16. With Ella Fuller (viola, 16) and Rachel Richard (cello, 18), they already have every second of their spare time cut out — in between revision for GCSE and A Levels — playing for the governor and the bailiff of their balliwick, and palm-courtting at hotels and weddings.

The string quartet of the

Hilary Finch listens to the young players of Guernsey's string quartet



Stringing along: the Ladies' College founding line-up

island three or four times a year in their capacity as section principals of the Guernsey Symphony Orchestra. Then they flew across for the National Children's Chamber Music Competition, where they were quite relieved not to be placed, simply because two more visits would have bankrupted them.

For the Cambridge Symposium for Young String Quartets, though, they obtained the necessary sponsorship from Rothschilds (not too difficult on Guernsey). But time, tide and barometric pressure, can defeat every bank in St Peter Port and, after fog had diverted them from Birmingham to Exeter, they arrived at Cambridge halfway through the weekend, having missed their masterclass.

What they learnt, though, from a special extra session with Ioan Davies of the Fitzwilliam Quartet, was that in quartet playing there is no hiding place. The leader was made to stand up and play a solo in order to learn what it really is to lead; the other three soon found out that there was no second, no half beat of a bar when they, too, were not required to be either soloists in their own right, or skilled accompanists.

Le Flem notices that the quartet players inevitably develop an unusually acute ear and razor-sharp critical faculties. They certainly rehearse as demandingly and combatively as any professional ensemble, though no member has yet been tempted to contribute a piece for the medium to their composition portfolio. They admit that it's safer to stick to Bach chorales.

Just as they are getting used to asserting themselves, to listening and responding, leading and following, the quartet will fall apart. School quartets come with built-in obsolescence: leader and cello will leave next month for the universities of London and Surrey, and the second violin and viola will have to pick two new colleagues in September.


They are determined to continue. Islanders have a way of crossing more water than most — but then being irresistibly drawn back. In one incarnation or another, and doubtless with many changes of personnel, the Ladies' College of Guernsey String Quartet looks set for a long life.

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CURRENT

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In east London a new community is rising from the rubble of a crime-ridden Sixties high-rise estate. Rachel Kelly reports

Home is where the tower block was

The day I visited Oliver Close, overlooking Hackney Marshes in east London, the men from the Ordnance Survey were there. They were mapping the 170 new brick houses built on the former site of a grey concrete tower block.

Pensioners pored in freshly planted front gardens. Children whizzed by on bikes. Christine Harris, for 17 years a resident of the 24-storey Sixties Clifford Hicks block, summed up their enthusiasm. "The atmosphere is completely different here. Friends come to visit us. Asian neighbours ask you in to taste their food."

"Previously nobody came to see us in the tower block. They were worried about leaving their car, so they would just top their horn for you to come down in the lift. People didn't even want to give out their address, as there was such a stigma about living in the blocks."

But this is more than just a tale of demolition. It is the story of a community regenerated. Ask residents what thrills them, and the answer could just as well be the job training schemes and the new community centre, the lower crime rates and friendly neighbours, as the new houses.

This is perhaps the most ambitious urban regeneration project in the country. £250 million is being spent over ten years to rehouse 6,500 people in 1,690 houses. Few other local authorities have undertaken such a complex and large-scale project. When completed, it will be a showcase of urban housing renewal. As the project's chief executive, Mike Wilson, says: "It's not just about the houses. Rebuilding alone doesn't solve the problems that had developed on the estate. All you end up with are new homes and the same vandalism, poverty and general deprivation that existed before."

"We are trying to regenerate the area by improving people's chances of jobs, the facilities that are available, and the spirit of the place to create a self-sustaining community with control over its future."

The ten tower blocks that made up the Waltham Forest estate needed urgent attention. Surveys in 1987 showed that it would cost £110 million to refurbish and repair them.

This was a classic "sink" council estate, housing some of the most deprived families in Britain. The Prince of Wales once called the blocks the worst he had ever visited. Unemployment ran at 40 per cent on the four blocks of Oliver Close, Boundary Road, Cathall Close and Chingford Hall. The flats suffered from broken entrances, vandalised garages and burnt-out bins areas. Fly-tipping was common and cars were frequently torched. The blocks themselves were poorly insulated and many were structurally unsound.

But funding for repairs proved a stumbling block. The first possible solution was suggested in 1987. The plan was to set up a company run by tenants and Waltham Forest Council, which would update the properties with funding from central government. Then the company would lease the flats back to the council. But in March 1988, the Government announced restrictions on any lease-back funding.

The deadlock was broken the following year with proposals for a Housing Action Trust (HAT). In April 1991, the then Minister of Housing, Sir George Young, visited the estates and announced that a ballot of tenants would take place in the summer. Of the 75 per cent of tenants who turned out to vote, 81 per cent were in favour. It was a propaganda triumph for the Government. At last their longed-for HAT scheme had begun.

Ownership of the flats was transferred from the council to the HAT in April 1992. A board was set up, and by 1993 the estates were being managed by the HAT rather than the council.

Oliver Close is the first phase of the HAT's ambitious plan to redevelop the whole estate in four phases. One innovation is to transfer tenants straight from their old flats into new houses on the same estate in a single move.

New houses were built on under-used open space at the borders of the estate. This allowed the two tower blocks to be vacated and demolished in the second phase, with the process repeated for another two phases. The structural engineer, Alan Baxter & Associates, helped to delineate the four rolling phases of demolition, so as not to cut off heating and other mains services. Three occupied tower blocks remain.

Tenants themselves were involved in choosing the design of their new homes, and run their own "design group". In answer to questionnaires, 95 per cent of tenants wanted a back garden with a front door on the street. Defensible space and curtain twitching were preferable to isolation on a deck-access higher storey. They were asked to state their preferences on the shape of rooms, as well as kitchen and bathroom units and paint colours.

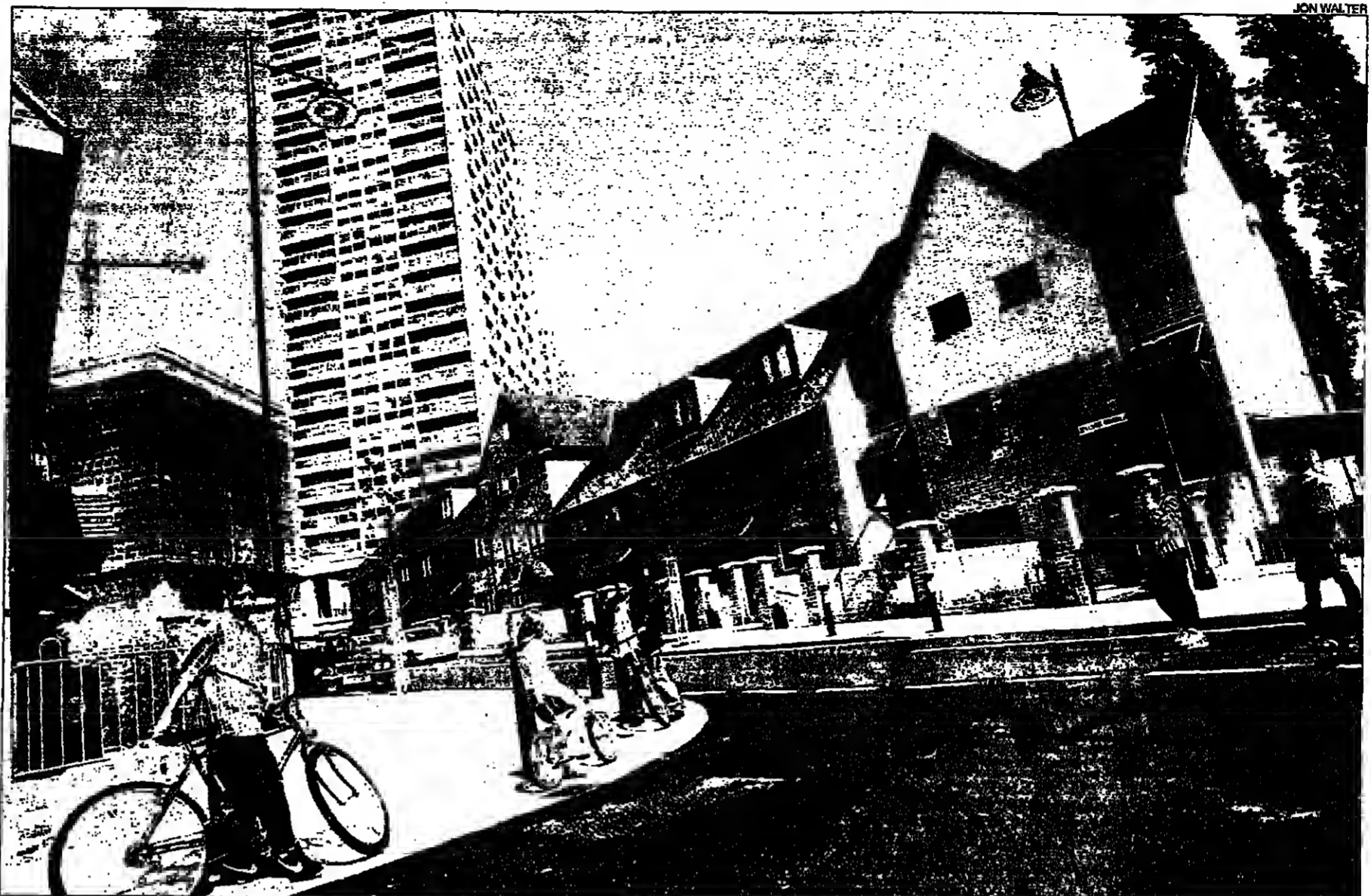
Residents felt strongly about kitchens. They wanted them at the back of the house, with the smart front rooms on show for passers-by. And they didn't want children marching in from the back garden to the living room with muddy shoes. They wanted them coming into the kitchen.

The result is terrace houses fronting narrow streets with tiny rear gardens, recreating the Victorian street pattern, plus a scattering of upstairs maisonettes reached by external dog-leg stairs. They are hardly revolutionary in design. But there are gable fronts, pitched roof canopies, dormer windows and two-tone brickwork, all in the "arts and crafts" style favoured by the architect, Hunt Thompson.

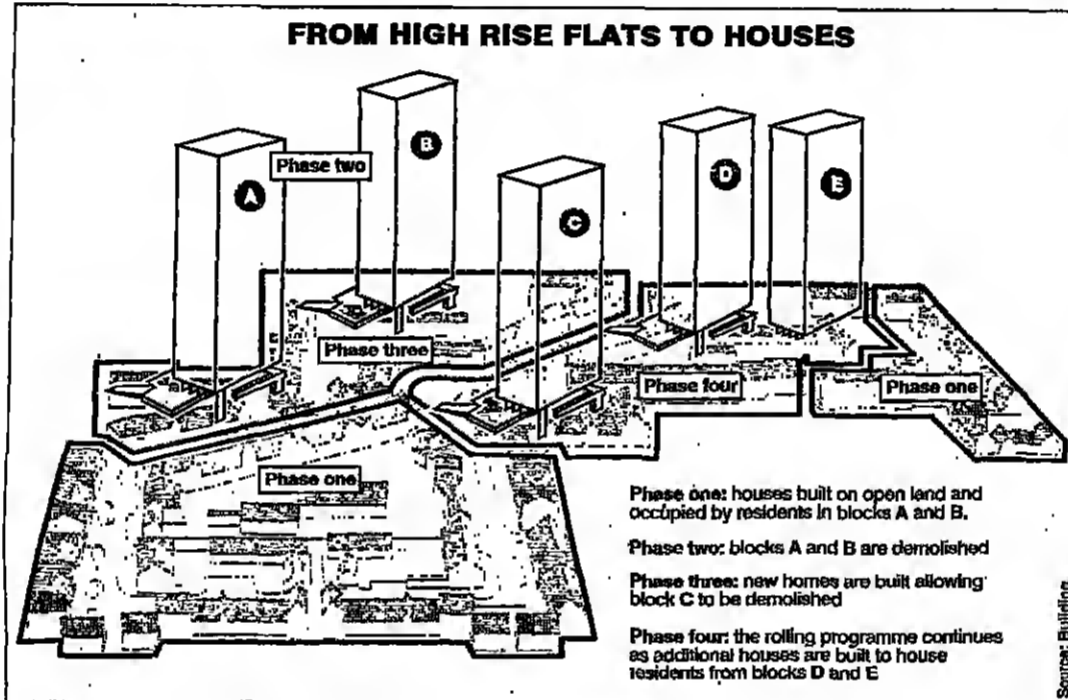
"THE BASIC concept of the old high-rise block design encourages crime by making it easy for the criminal to go undetected. There are lots of nooks and crannies where burglars, muggers or vandals can hide."

So says Chief Inspector Royston Colbourne, in charge of the crime prevention division at Leytonstone police station. The new low-rise houses at Waltham Forest make front doors visible to the passing public, and there are few hiding places. Lighting has been improved, and there are fewer alleyways and no underground car-parks or lifts.

The police are fond of stressing that they have "designed out" crime: a buzz-phrase referring to the lay-out of the new streets. Col-



New low-rise brick-built terraces provide traditional homes in the shadow of one of the remaining concrete towers: crime has fallen and a community is taking shape



The first tenants moved into their new homes 13 months ago. Others are less lucky. The main frustration voiced by tenants is the slowness of redevelopment. It has already taken seven years since the first plans were drawn up, and the project will not be completed until 2002.

They are consoled by improvements to the tower blocks meanwhile. The windows have been strengthened with toughened glass. The door bolts have been improved and the blocks repainted. Life is already more bearable for tenants. At the start of redevelopment, concrete podiums and an abandoned, crime-ridden car-park beneath the blocks were removed, moves already vindicated by falling crime statistics.

The HAT's concerns go beyond bricks and mortar. Tenants are encouraged to participate in all aspects of estate renewal. Four of the directors on the nine-strong HAT board are tenants. Each block has a tenants' steering group. Around 20 per cent of tenants are actively involved in the HAT. Debbie Griggs has chaired the estate steering group at Oliver Close for two years. The steering group's role is to represent tenants on any and every matter," she says. "We deal with children, health and safety, and maintaining proper services for the people still left in the tower blocks."

Part of the HAT's offices at the foot of one of the tower blocks has been converted into a community centre, hosting aerobics, karate classes for children, a one-stop health shop particularly focused on the number of residents suffering from asthma, and an out-of-school children's club.

AN EXPERIMENT IN HOUSING ACTION

HATs off to tenants

HOUSING Action Trusts were established in the 1980s Housing Act, the brainchild of the then Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, as the Tory answer to Britain's housing problems. Despite the overall success of the right-to-buy policy, council flats, especially in tower blocks, had proved almost impossible to sell.

The action trusts would, after a tenants' vote, take control of such properties away from town halls and hand them to the tenants. Funding for maintenance and improvement would come from central government. The principle was similar to that for opted-out schools, which were taken from councils and given to parents, with funding from Whitehall.

But the plan fell flat. Tenants across Britain proved loyal to their local councils. Fearing that their security of tenure would be at risk, or that rents would rise, they spurned the action trust experiment.

Then tenants woke up to the possibilities of extra funding. Tenants in Hull, Liverpool, Birmingham and Waltham Forest realised that just as the Government had ensured above-average funding for opted-out schools, so it would do the same for opted-out estates. There was no other chance of getting money to improve their homes.

POLICE JOIN RESIDENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CRIME

Plant shrubs, lock windows

de-sacs mean that criminals can't escape front gardens provide a natural defensible space; the back gardens back on to other gardens hindering escape routes.

"We told the architects where to place windows and put off-street parking so that people could see their cars," says Mr Colbourne. "Police patrols have been coordinated with those of the HAT's own security officers."

Ironically, low-rise housing brings its own problems, says PC Wayne Jones, a crime prevention officer in Leytonstone. "There are more doors and windows through which the criminal can enter. The estate was also going to look new and prosperous, which would encourage burglars."

Therefore the new homes have been fitted with locks recommended by the police, and homeowners are being taught basic crime prevention. "These people have never had gardens before," says Mr Jones. "We're helping them to decide what kind of shrubs to plant which will eventually grow to act like a fence. It's more attractive than mesh and just as effective."

Mr Colbourne agrees. "Many of the residents aren't used to living in low-rise buildings," he says, "and will forget simple crime prevention actions such as closing windows."

In 1992-93 there was an average of six cases of forced entry burglary a month; there have been just three incidents in total in the past two years. The fear of crime has also been reduced,

labour and 20 per cent local suppliers. McAlpine took on 30 local brickies and carpenters in the first phase of buildings, and the demolition contractor has offered 15 jobs to tenants. In all, the careers advice and training schemes have helped 561 tenants into work and a further 538 into training.

There have been complaints, chiefly from consultants involved in the projects who have criticised other professional advisers and suggested that too many experts and different architects were used. Four different architects have been used for each stage, but Mr Wilson counters that each has improved on the previous schemes.

Others have muttered about planning inefficiencies: 170 families have not got a home in the new redevelopment, so the trust will have to buy land elsewhere to

according to the latest tenant-satisfaction survey from the HAT. Problems do still exist. Common assault and theft from motor vehicles are rife. In October 1994 there were four recorded car crimes; in October 1995 this had risen to ten. In February of this year there were seven incidents of crime with violence.

Perhaps the most lasting achievement will be the attitude of residents. As Mr Colbourne says: "People on the estate are proud of where they live now. They're more likely to look after their properties and less likely to turn to crime themselves. Prior to the scheme there was an isolationist attitude among the residents. A sense of community really is developing."



Colomberie House, built in the 18th century but later altered

Conservationists are fighting to save Jersey's Colomberie House, which they claim is the work of Sir John Soane

An application for the demolition of Colomberie House in Jersey will be put to the Jersey Planning Committee next month, despite the best efforts of conservationists and architectural historians to save the house.

The house's supporters have renewed their efforts to save Colomberie after a letter to *The Times* highlighted the house's architectural merit.

Coopers & Lybrand, which occupies the building, has concluded that the property has no "significant architectural merit". But documents in the Sir John Soane museum show the architect's involvement in remodelling the existing 1770s house, according to the letter from Margaret Richardson, the museum's curator.

Colomberie is believed to be the only building in the Channel Islands with any alteration by an architect of such national importance as Soane, who also designed the Bank of England and the Dulwich picture gallery.

Geoffrey Grime, the head of Coopers & Lybrand in Jersey, defended the decision to demolish the building.

"We would stress that Jersey's Royal Court ruled in 1992 that the building could not be accredited to Sir John Soane," he said. "We would also point out that the building is owned by Manip Ltd, the family firm of Peter Blampied, a former senior partner at Coopers."

Mr Blampied said the documents did not change his view

Letter fuels the Jersey row

that the house should be demolished. "This is not fresh evidence. We knew about these documents in 1992 when the Royal Court spent a long time considering drawings done by Soane of the house."

It was argued prior to the hearing by some that Colomberie had been designed by Soane. In fact the property had been built before 1810, when Soane was consulted. Though he may have altered some of the internal

detail, the only change to the outside of the property was the lowering of some of the windowsills."

Mr Blampied added: "If any criticism exists that are now shortly to be implemented, I accept the responsibility. If I believed that Colomberie enjoyed any significant architectural merit, I would want to preserve it."

Professor F. Fielden, who advised Coopers & Lybrand at the time of the Royal Court hearing, supports Mr Blampied's view. "Certainly in 1810, Hemery (the owner) sent survey drawings of the house to Soane, who prepared an ambitious scheme of refurbishment. But this was not carried out... Soane would have been horrified if the resulting work had been attributed to him."

But conservationists are passionate in the building's defence. Alastair Layzell, the chairman of Save Jersey's Heritage, said: "I am astonished that Coopers will not respond to the architectural evidence. I'm amazed they will not respond to the likes of the Prince of Wales, who has campaigned to save this building. They seem to have set their face against any new evidence."

Two years of research by the architect and scholar of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Ptolemy Dean, has highlighted how Soane imposed his general architectural ideas on the building. Mr Dean has also found the building to be in good condition, in contrast to Coopers & Lybrand, which says the house is in a poor state.

"My research has reassessed the evidence which led to the decision of Jersey's Royal Court in 1992 to demolish the house," Mr Dean said. "Coopers must have the courage to be enlightened. Otherwise the losers will be the people of Jersey."

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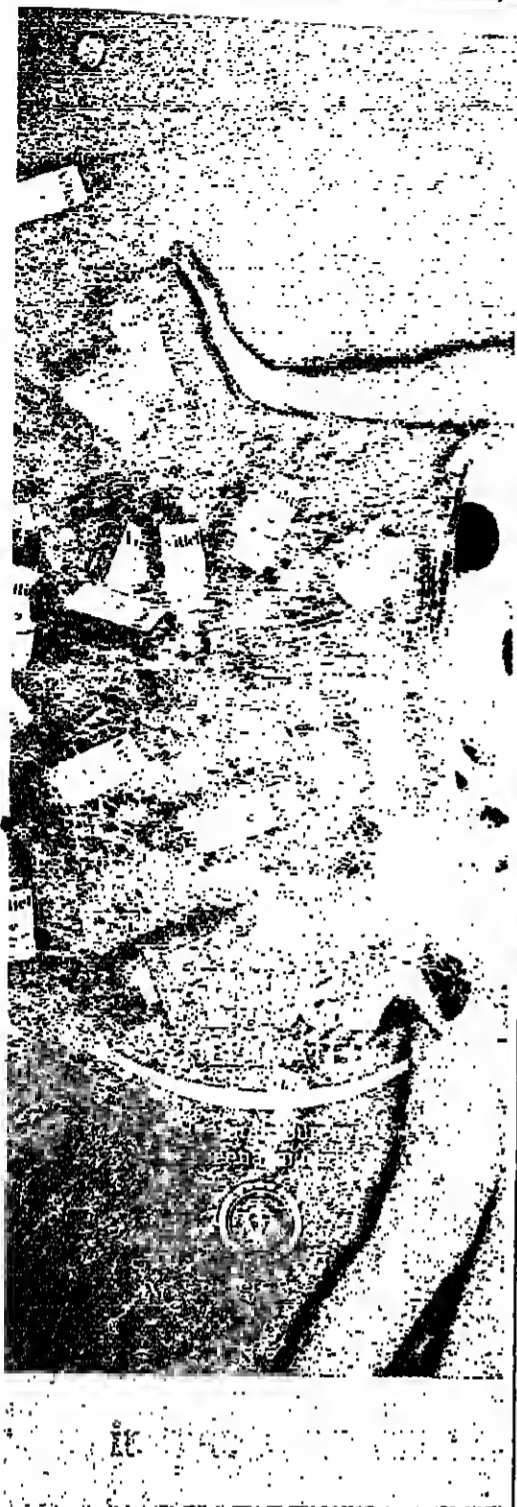
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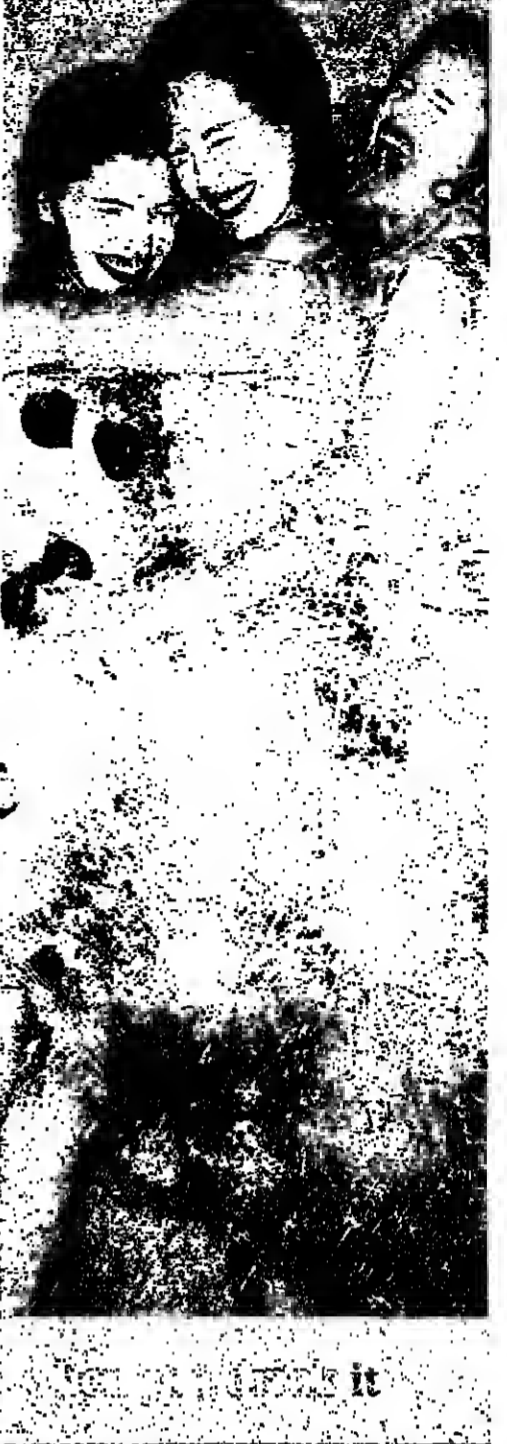
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OLYMPIC GAMES: SOUTH KOREANS PRESENT FIRST OPPOSITION FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO PRESERVE AMATEUR VALUES

British ready to stick out in the crowd

David Miller reports from Atlanta on the hockey teams aiming to enhance an impressive record

IF YOU were caught by the mood of Euro 96 and by England's performances...

While some individual athletes are able to run and jump with the prospect of personal financial fortunes...

So mutually agreeable, however, did the visit prove to be that the manager has invited the squad...

There is little appreciation back home of the world ranking of Britain's men who, since the amalgamation of the home countries...

"I'd like to know any other sport that has stayed in the top six," Russell Garcia, the lone survivor from Seoul...

In a gruelling preparatory programme since the beginning of May, the team has played 20 matches...



The Great Britain men's team in Atlanta will be striving to emulate the success of the 1988 side, above, which struck gold in Seoul

Pakistan, who are in the other pool. The top two from each qualify for the semi-finals.

Three tours were packed into seven weeks, interspersed with rigorous humidity training in special rubber wet suits...

The wet suits, which the England rugby squad used in preparation for the World Cup in South Africa last year...

"Our form was indifferent, because of fatigue and from playing the top teams so much," David Whittle, the team manager, said.

peak. "I think their resilience has carried them through a tough period," he said.

Nor does there seem to be any fall-out from the sudden resignation in May of David Whitaker, the longstanding coach...

An ankle injury has forced Robert Thompson, the centre forward, to withdraw from the Great Britain hockey team.

The question now is not so much whether the team is mentally ready than whether it can score sufficient goals not to be over-dependent on Calum Giles.

ulations to come on specifically to take the strike on short corners. No one has succeeded since Kerly, with his 65 goals in 99 internationals.

"We've got to be more bloody-minded in the circle," Garcia said. He is semi-professional, having moved to Barcelona as a player-coach.

The women, who won the bronze medal in Barcelona, are in a single group of eight, playing in a round-robin, the top two going direct to the final.

Athletes find no fun and games on arrival

FROM CRAIG LORD IN ATLANTA

THE cheating has begun at the Centennial Games in Atlanta. Drugs? Vote-rigging in the gym? False entry times?

There will be no punishment for the guilty among the 3,000 or so arrivals who succumbed to a bout of on-the-road rage.

They had, after all, suffered enough, many having travelled halfway around the world only to find the biggest human traffic jam of their lives.

holiday-maker, then spare a thought for the fighters from Papua New Guinea. They had set out on a world tour about 40 hours before, arriving in Georgia from Port Moresby via Cairns, Brisbane, Sydney, Fiji, Hawaii and Los Angeles.

Duncan Lange, coach of Danyon Loader, the butterfly and distance freestyle swimmer from New Zealand, was encouraged to jump the queue by another volunteer.

Making money not quite the game it seemed

The Varsity restaurant had a kinda neat idea and made up some kinda cute little badges. Five rings, like the Olympic rings, right, only onion rings, get it?

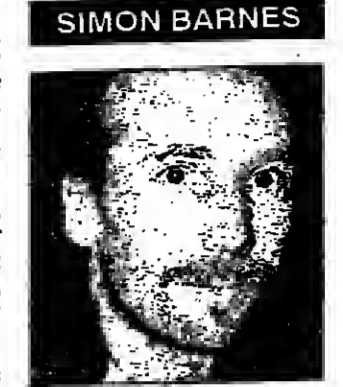
You might think that the Olympic rings are a symbol of international amity, or just great sport, but we are talking logo here. A lot of people have paid a lot of money to carry the rings on their products...

As I write these words from Atlanta, the home of a rather famous sticky brown drink, one with non-onion, non-parasitised Olympic rings all over its cans, the air is heavy with money.

It is accepted wisdom that the English are equivocal about money — snobbishly embarrassed, hypocritically avaricious — while Americans are contemptibly voracious but refreshingly free from double standards.

"Is anyone worth \$12 million?" the newspaper USA Today asks on its lead story, as it greets the announcement that Alonzo Mourning has been offered that sum to play basketball for seven years for Miami Heat.

Now, you can make a decent case for these people, saying that they earn their money by honest sweat and genuine excellence, and they are worth rather more to you and me than the czars of business who routinely award themselves head-spinning bonuses.



Atlanta sketch

glossiness and a glamour that we have not seen before.

Two new sports make this plain. Beach volleyball, with its "lifestyle" associations, and its game-within-a-game — the tackiest sunglasses competition — is a marketing dream.

Everywhere during the phoney war before the Games begin, we see a celebration of the new, the glossy and the slick — the latest craze and the dollar to make from it — and yet, right on the verge of the opening ceremony, there is a yearning for something else.

My information pack from the British Olympic Association bears a picture of a man with snow-white hair and a truly wonderful black moustache.

This, of course, was the founder of the modern Games, which began a century back. Hunt through the programme of the Centennial Games in Atlanta and you can still find de Coubertin's favourite event, hanging on by its fingernails.

This is the modern pentathlon, ride-shoot-fence-swim-run, a mad romantic dream of a mad romantic baron. Mike Costigan, the leading pentathlete in the United States, earned \$24,000 last year.

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES COMPETITION Go for gold in Atlanta Your chance to win a VIP trip to the Olympics... Includes five nights with breakfast at the luxurious Stouffer Renaissance Hotel...

Graf accepts medical advice to withdraw



Graf: knee injury

STEFFI GRAF, the Wimbledon champion, has pulled out of the German team because of a knee injury.

Graf took part in the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984, when tennis was a demonstration sport, won in Seoul in 1988 and took the silver medal in Barcelona four years ago.

Germany's Olympic long jump champion, Heike Drechsler, denied yesterday that she had withdrawn from the Games, saying she hoped to recover from a knee injury in time to defend her title.

Germany's Olympic long jump champion, Heike Drechsler, denied yesterday that she had withdrawn from the Games, saying she hoped to recover from a knee injury in time to defend her title.

The IOC has also rejected a request from Eritrea, the only member of the United Nations outside the Olympic movement, to send two cyclists to compete in Atlanta.

SQUASH Russell eyes last four after defeat of Amjad

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN CAIRO JOHN RUSSELL shed his usual coloured headgear to get past Paul Peters, of Australia, in the third round of the world junior men's championship here and yesterday he added his eye-protecting goggles to the scrappage before unexpectedly squeezing past Amjad Khan, of Pakistan, to reach today's quarter-finals.

"I don't know what else I can shed to get to the semi-finals," Russell, 16, from New Eltham in South London, said after recovering from 2-1 and 7-2 down in the fourth game to beat Amjad, the No 5 seed and Asian junior champion, 9-7, 5-9, 5-9, 10-9, 9-7 in 80 minutes.

RIFLE SHOOTING McAllister leaves little to Chance

PETER CHANCE, who out-pointed the top long-range marksmen at Disney on Monday, came close to winning the match rifle championship yesterday, scoring 965.94 for sixth place.

Jim McAllister, of the National Rifle Club of Scotland and a top-liner for many years, took the Hutton Challenge Cup with 971 points out of a possible 1,025, with 105 shots over the four days in the 16in-diameter V-bull.

FOOTBALL Lee demands talks on shares sell-off

FRANCIS LEE, the Manchester City chairman, has demanded that a secretive potential investor in the club must reveal his identity before he will agree to further negotiations over a potential sale of shares.

Lee revealed yesterday that he had been approached through a third party with proposals for a significant investment from Middle Eastern sources. However, after initial discussions with the intermediary, Lee has called a halt to talks until he is provided with further information.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'SUMMER', 'Faldo gets... Open title...', and 'TEE OFF...'

GOLF: POPULAR ITALIAN HAS LONG BEEN WINNING FRIENDS: NOW HE WINS TOURNAMENTS TOO

Sunny Rocca is shining bright at last

By MEL WEBB

THESE are those who make things happen and others to whom things happen. For a long time, Constantino Rocca could be neatly slotted into the second part of the equation. No more. Rocca is a man who smiles a lot and these days he has a good deal to smile about. Fifteen years ago, Rocca could only have fantasised about the things he has gone on to achieve — two Ryder Cup appearances with a hole in one in the second of them, a Volvo PGA Championship, forcing the Open Championship into a play-off, winning more than £2 million in prize-money. The average worker in a polystyrene box factory in northern Italy, as he once was, might earn two million lire in a couple of months, but sterling? A pipedream, no more. For Rocca, it is a dream that came to pass. Today, he has risen above his modest beginnings to become one of the best-known characters in golf, a player blessed with a sunny disposition, a text-book technique and, increasingly, a hardened temperament. It is this last element in his make-up that was the slowest to develop. He is still not without temperamental flaws — who is? — but an iron will behind the cheerful disposition has become an intrinsic part of his character. He was accused, slightly understandably but also grossly unfairly, of choking when he lost to Davis Love III by one hole in the 1993 Ryder Cup after being one up with two to play. He hit a dreadful, hacker's fluff of a chip from the Valley of Sir on the 72nd hole when chasing John Daly in last year's Open at St Andrews, then handsomely redeemed himself by holing a 40-foot putt that was far more difficult than the chip that had preceded it. Forget for a moment that he then lost the play-off, here, on the 18th hole at the home of golf, he was both



Rocca, right, shares a joke with Norman as they pass on the 16th tee during practice for the Open at Royal Lytham St Annes yesterday

choker and steel-braced hero in the space of two minutes. He holed in one in the Saturday morning foursome at the Ryder Cup two months later to set up a 6 and 5 victory with Sam Torrance over Love and Jeff Maggert. It was a triumph moment that was overshadowed by potential calamity when Torrance lifted his partner off his feet with an enormous bear-hug. Torrance's propensity for picking up his partner might just as easily have resulted in the fracture of ribs, or toes, or hanger, or huggie, or both. However, it was not until he beat Nick Faldo to win the Volvo PGA Championship at Wenhay in May by birdying the last two holes in the final round that he finally shook off his reputation. These days Rocca enjoys a

handsome lifestyle and a hero's status in his home town of Bergamo — when the Italian Open was held there in May, it was more like Rocca's personal party than a golf tournament. He goes into this Open Championship as an acknowledged contender, but observing him in practice yesterday it was obvious that, if he is a threat whenever he plays nowadays, it remains on his own terms, not those that require grim-faced single-mindedness and a personality subdued by the demands of the moment. He is still open and friendly, for example answering a "Ciao" from an Italian spectator on the 16th with a "Ciao" of his own, a wave and a smile. He also signed autographs by the dozen — it is, incidentally, a signature that is bold,

sweeping and exuberant, written on bro. The reception he was accorded was not unlike that for such as Arnold Palmer and Severiano Ballesteros from golf lovers all over the world. Once there was Arnie's Army, then Seve's Squadron. Rocca has not yet assembled a Regiment, but he does, beyond question, have Costa's Company marching behind him.

There was nothing complicated about the manner in which Rocca made his intention clear. He won the 199-kilometre stage from Agen to Lourdes-Hautacam in the Pyrenees going clear before the final kilometres of a cruel climb with such ease that he appeared to be riding downhill. Indurain and a handful of others were left floundering as the big Dane went into overdrive on the demanding 13-kilometre ascent that took him to the top of a world where thousands of spectators lined the road. Sweat ran off his chin like a

dripping tap and he frequently came out of the saddle to "dance" on the pedals to give him extra impetus, all the time drawing away from any challenge that remained behind. Rocca, who finished third last year, had taken the overall lead after the ninth stage when the Tour crossed the Alps a week earlier at Sestriere. Indurain had been hoping to make up enough time to give him the overall lead today at the end of another Pyrenean stage that will take him past his family farm in Villava, six kilometres from the finish at Pamplona, in Spain. Today will be a big test of Rocca's ability to recover from the demands he made on his body yesterday. The stage will involve a succession of climbs, the most difficult of which, the Larrau, rises to 1,573 metres. Rocca will need all the support of his German Telekom team to keep him in contention but, after the stage win yesterday, his confidence was soaring. "I think that today's stage was the key to winning the Tour, although there could still be many dangers ahead," he said. "I am speechless and so delighted that I won. I said I would and I have kept my promise." Spanish police detonated a bomb yesterday in Pamplona on the eve of the Tour's arrival there. There had been an anonymous warning about the device, which was in a rubbish bin outside a bank. The Basque separatist group, Eta, had threatened to disrupt the Tour, but Indurain told Spanish television at the start of the race that he was not worried about attacks because organisers had tried to respect Basque sensibilities.

CYCLING

Riis climbs to within reach of final victory

By PETER BRYAN

THE contest for supremacy in the Tour de France veered dramatically away from the route that had been mapped out in advance by the script-writers yesterday. In his mountain domain, Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner from Spain, was expected to wrest the yellow jersey from Björn Riis, the upstart pretender to his crown. Instead, the Danish champion scored a quick knockout on the final, murderous climb of the sixteenth stage at Lourdes-Hautacam, 1,560 metres above sea level. It made for a forgettable 32nd birthday for Indurain, bidding at last to make his mark on the Tour after a disappointing fortnight that started with him as odds-on favourite to extend his run of victories to six. Riis not only increased — his lead over Indurain — who finished the day 7min 10sec down overall and dropped to tenth — but he also sent a signal to others bold enough to covet the race leader's maillot jaune when the Tour ends in Paris on Sunday. There was nothing complicated about the manner in which Riis made his intention clear. He won the 199-kilometre stage from Agen to Lourdes-Hautacam in the Pyrenees going clear before the final kilometres of a cruel climb with such ease that he appeared to be riding downhill. Indurain and a handful of others were left floundering as the big Dane went into overdrive on the demanding 13-kilometre ascent that took him to the top of a world where thousands of spectators lined the road. Sweat ran off his chin like a

dropping tap and he frequently came out of the saddle to "dance" on the pedals to give him extra impetus, all the time drawing away from any challenge that remained behind. Rocca, who finished third last year, had taken the overall lead after the ninth stage when the Tour crossed the Alps a week earlier at Sestriere. Indurain had been hoping to make up enough time to give him the overall lead today at the end of another Pyrenean stage that will take him past his family farm in Villava, six kilometres from the finish at Pamplona, in Spain. Today will be a big test of Rocca's ability to recover from the demands he made on his body yesterday. The stage will involve a succession of climbs, the most difficult of which, the Larrau, rises to 1,573 metres. Rocca will need all the support of his German Telekom team to keep him in contention but, after the stage win yesterday, his confidence was soaring. "I think that today's stage was the key to winning the Tour, although there could still be many dangers ahead," he said. "I am speechless and so delighted that I won. I said I would and I have kept my promise." Spanish police detonated a bomb yesterday in Pamplona on the eve of the Tour's arrival there. There had been an anonymous warning about the device, which was in a rubbish bin outside a bank. The Basque separatist group, Eta, had threatened to disrupt the Tour, but Indurain told Spanish television at the start of the race that he was not worried about attacks because organisers had tried to respect Basque sensibilities.



Riis, the overall leader in the Tour de France, marks his breakthrough victory in the sixteenth stage yesterday

Faldo gets pursuit of fourth Open title off to early start

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IF YOU want to see Nick Faldo begin his attempt to win his second major championship of the year, then you had better get up early. Faldo, the Masters champion and three-times Open champion, hits his opening shot in the 125th Open at 7.33am tomorrow in the company of Robert Allenby, from Australia, and Fuzzy Zoeller, one of the game's quickest players, may chafe at

times during the first two rounds, because Faldo can be slow. They go out again at 12.19pm on Friday. When he won the 1968 Open here, Severiano Ballesteros had an early tee-time in his first round. He was as sharp as a tack that damp day, starting birdie, birdie, birdie. He went on to record a 67, including two penalty strokes and, incidentally, using every club in the bag except his four-

wood. As he searches desperately for openings that may inspire him to a third Open victory at Lytham, Ballesteros may be cheered by the fact that he is off early again this year — at 8.50am, in the company of Jeff Maggert and Hidemichi Tanaka. Jack Nicklaus has never been very taken by late starting times. "What do you do all day?" he has asked. His starting time this year should be to his satisfaction. Playing with Gordon Brand Jr and Shigeki Maruyama, he is off at 1.25pm tomorrow and 8.39am on Friday. Some mischievous hand was at work with the trio teeing off at 12.41pm on Thursday. Darren Blakely, the Amateur Champion, used to be bar and cellar manager at a pub in Leamington. Andrew Oldcorn has precisely the sort of friendly face you hope to find standing next to you at a bar while Brian Barnes, the third member of the group, has turned teetotal. Jim Payne, who won the silver medal for being leading amateur in the 1991 Open and is the Italian Open champion, plays with Steve Stricker, the young American who has made such an impression this season. Greg Norman is the third man in the group that starts at 9.50am. John Daly, the defending champion, Phil Mickelson and Satoshi Higashi are in the group going out at 12.52pm just behind Blakely, Oldcorn and Barnes, while Steve Jones, the US Open champion, tees off at 8.06am with Lee Westwood and Wayne Riley, immediately after Fred Couples. Mark McCumber and Padraig Harrington,

Sweeping change brings Feherty qualified success

David Feherty might not have won anything since the Macri Open in 1992, but at least the Ulsterman now has a putter that won five times in 1995 and he intends the relationship to be a close and lasting one. "I'm calling her Betty Borrú," Feherty revealed after their fourth day together, in a practice round at Royal Lytham and St Annes yesterday. Those whose film viewing was no more up to date than Casablanca were suitably baffled, but the reference is to Cadyshaeck, which featured a professional who spent a lot of time sweet-talking his putter in an effort to hole more putts. Feherty's new love is his wife, Anita — they married on May 31 — but the putter, 48½ in tall and donated by his previous careful owner, Sam Torrance — who had three tournament victories with it and used it as a member of the winning Ryder Cup and Alfred Dunhill Cup teams — is threatening a new lease of golfing life for a man whose career had stalled. "Earlier in the year, I was hitting the ball perhaps better than ever," Feherty said, "but my putting was so awful I was willing to try anything." He took the plunge into unorthodoxy after the third round of the Carrossie last week. "I hit the ball fantastic," he said, "but the putting was dire. I hit a couple of putts with Sam's spare one and that was it." Torrance did not demur when his broomhandle was swept away. "It wasn't spare at the time," he revealed yesterday. "It was still in my bag." However, Tideist had

Patricia Davies hears how the Ulsterman was converted to the broomhandle putter a week before the Open

just made him one that was very much to his liking, so he let the old one go. For the first time this year, Feherty felt at ease on the greens and he proved it was not a delusion when he led the Open qualifiers at Forbury on Monday, alongside Tim Herron, of the United States. Instead of seeing every hole as a potential bogey opportunity, at best, Feherty started feeling confident and at last birdies were no longer rarities ruffed in by others. "I don't know what the reason is," the born-again putter confessed, "and I hope I never find out." Torrance, who has been a broomhandle user for eight years, offered only basic in-

struction. "He knows what to do," the Scot said. "The main thing is that the putter has to hang straight down." Both are under-the-chin men and yesterday they were in a group that would have made the purists wince, for only one player used a putter of normal length. Robert Lee was the croucher, while Wayne Riley, the combative Australian, likes to get his putting off his chest, as it were. Riey, an instinctive showman, rolled home a 25-footer at the last to win the money yesterday. He forbore to crow, but his walk to the hole was a series of rooster-like struts and nobody in the stands failed to catch his drift. "We always lose when we're not playing for too much," Feherty smiled from beneath a haircut so severe it might have been a criminal offence. "I'll be different when we raise the stakes." He is in his element here, practising with his friends, making cracks, hurting insults, but his ambitions for the week are deceptively modest. "I just want to make some putts," he said. "I'm not proud. This is my favourite tournament." Torrance concurred. "This is the best tournament in the world. It's the highest event a human being can play in. I've played in all four majors now and this is the Open. You never get anything like that last hole at the Masters or the US Open. The grandstands are just awesome. At St Andrews last year, I was in tears leaving the 1st tee, but just imagine coming up the last fairway leading the Open — incredible."



Feherty: confident

TEE-OFF TIMES

Table of tee-off times for the 125th Open, listing player names and their tee-off times in 15-minute intervals.

FOR THE RECORD

Table of sports records including Hang Gliding, Motor Racing, Rifle Shooting, Rugby Union, Speedway, Tennis, and Squash.

Table of sports records including American League, National League, BOWLS, English Bowls Association, and CRICKET.

CYCLING

Table of cycling records for the Tour de France, Sixteenth stage.

WEDNESDAY JULY 17 1996

American to vary strategy according to conditions in Open driving test

Daly displays defence evidence

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE intriguing thought that John Daly could win the Open Championship again and become the first man since Tom Watson in 1983 to defend his title successfully began to surface yesterday as another glorious summer's day drew slowly to a close at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Stranger things have happened by far than that the man who won his first major championship as an alcoholic and his second as a teetotaler should add a third this week.

Conventional wisdom has it that Daly, on his first visit to this part of Lancashire, should scarcely have a chance in the 125th Open because his driving is not accurate on a course where a fair share of the 185 bunkers are deliberately positioned to catch errant strokes from the tee.

It is felt, furthermore, that Daly has neither the patience to cope with, nor sufficient knowledge of, the intricacies that make the course such a forbidding test, particularly in the prevailing northwest wind. Never mind that history weighs against him, because it is the one Open course where an American professional has not yet won the Championship.

While it is true that Daly's driving is prodigiously long — and he reached the 542-yard 11th yesterday with a drive and a pitching wedge — it is not always as inaccurate as legend would have us believe. It is nothing like as wild as Severiano Ballesteros's here in 1979, for example.

Peter Oosterhuis, who finished second to Gary Player in the 1974 Open at this course, points out that two of the venues on which Daly has won tournaments in the United States have very little room for manoeuvre from the tee. "The BC Open is played on a very tight course," Oosterhuis said. "The Atlanta Country Club is another."

Whereas, at St Andrews last year, Daly usually knew each day what club he would use from each tee, this year, after only two practice rounds, he has realised that it will vary from day to day depending on the wind.

Taking counsel from Greg Rita, his esteemed caddie, who worked for Curtis Strange when the Open was last held here, Daly will vary the clubs that he uses from the tees between his much-talked-about zero-iron, which has a loft of ten degrees, and his driver.

Ballesteros made a persuasion



THE OPEN

In *The Times* tomorrow: a 24-page colour guide to the Open Championship

sive case earlier in the week that the secret of his success over the 6,892-yard course in 1979 and 1983 was because of his short game. "The greens are small and everyone is going to miss a lot of greens," Ballesteros said. "With the crosswinds, chipping and putting is always going to be important."



Faldo: early start

You needed only to see the way that Daly manufactured a pitch-and-run shot from near the 1st tee of the Old Course to the 18th green last year to realise that, beneath Daly's thatch of corn-coloured hair, lurks a man with a golfing brain and a dextrous pair of hands. Which leaves only his putting.

No less a putting wizard than Ben Crenshaw was recently moved to remark to Daly during a practice round at the US Open: "You know, you and I and Phil Mickelson have similar putting styles." Daly was surprised and flattered.

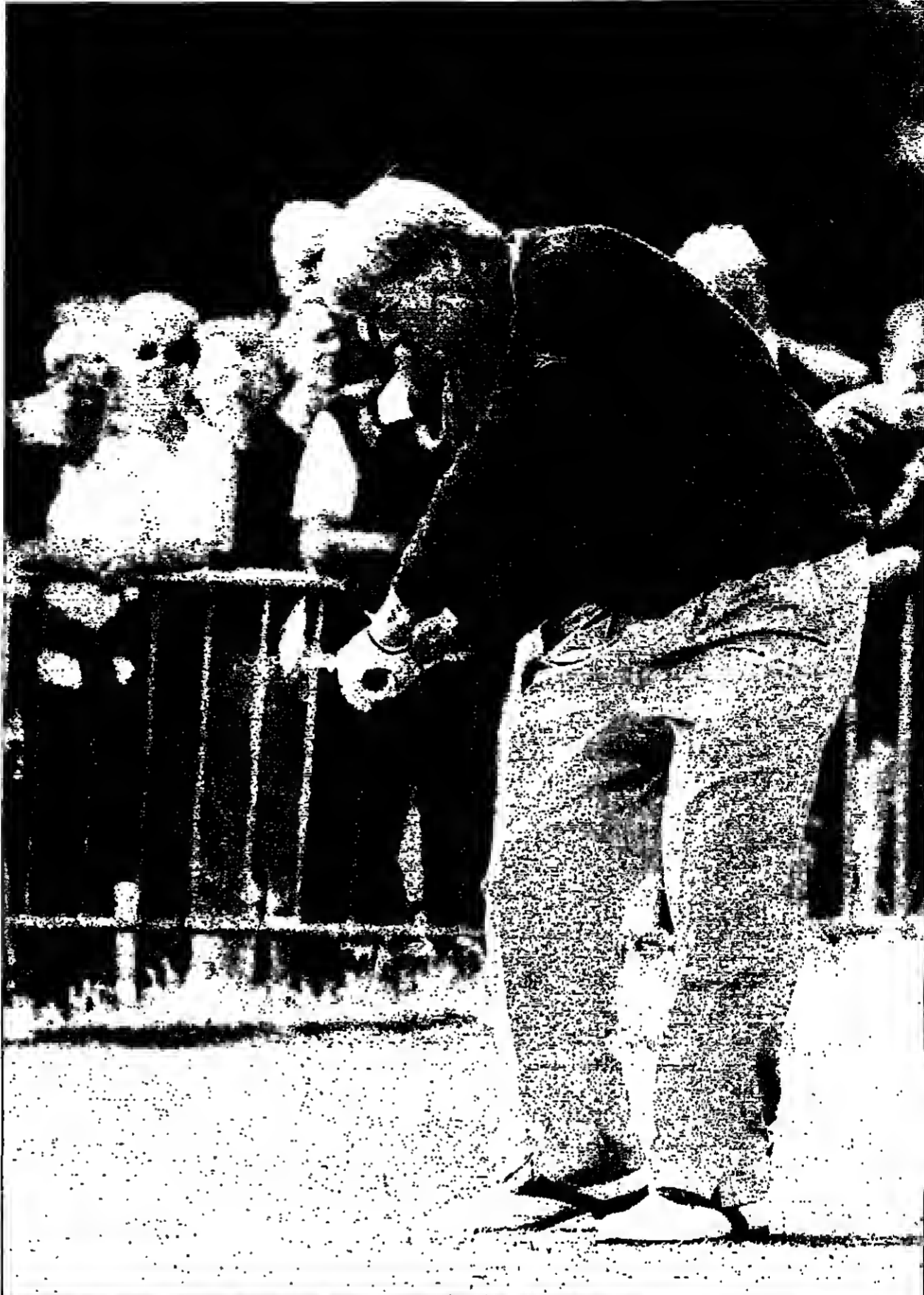
"Ben said we both have long backswings and use pretty much the same putters and that, when you have a long backswing, you tend to decelerate through the ball," Daly said. "He said I was taking it back too quick. Now I love the way I'm putting."

The wind that was blowing as Daly concluded a practice round yesterday was an unusual one. It was into his face instead of being at his back on the front nine. "In the normal wind here," Nick Faldo said, "you are playing the back nine into a left-to-right wind and it is very demanding. You have to make your score on the first 12 holes and then hang on to it."

Faldo heard the news of his starting time tomorrow — 7.33am — without batting an eyelid and despite the fact that he will probably have to get up at 5.30am. By happy coincidence, he was at Lytham's links at 7.30am yesterday, getting ready for his second practice over a course on which he feels completely at home, since it was where he won the English Amateur Championship in 1975 and defeated Tom Watson in the singles of the 1977 Ryder Cup.

No less happy was Lorne Duncan, the caddie who had been waiting in the car park on Monday, an activity known as roasting by caddies, hoping to find a player for whom to work.

"I've got Todd Hamilton's bag," Duncan reported with a smile on his face. "He's an American who plays a lot in Japan. He's a straight-down-the-middle sort of bloke and, I hope, a straight-down-the-fairway sort of golfer."



IAN STEWART

Daly's tee shots were the focus of attention as he practised at Royal Lytham and St Annes yesterday

Francis turns to Furlong in search for a star

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BIRMINGHAM City football supporters braced themselves yesterday, safe in the knowledge that Trevor Francis was about to announce his fourth, and most spectacular, summer signing. It was an open secret that he had been talking to John-Pierre Papin, the Bayern Munich and France striker, and St Andrew's was abuzz with expectation.

Mike Newell, of Blackburn Rovers, and Jan Aage Fjortoft, of Middlesbrough, had also been mentioned in the Midlands grapevine. The wait was becoming excruciating. "Who is it?" demanded an agitated Blues follower, who had camped in the club car park to get the news at first hand. "I have heard it's Mark Hughes. Is that right?"

Not quite... but close. Minutes later, Francis unwrapped his latest present: Paul Furlong, Hughes's erstwhile Chelsea team-mate and scorer of four goals last season.

Furlong, 27, had been signed for £1.5 million, a record for the Nationwide Football League first division club, but £800,000 less than when he moved from Watford to Stamford Bridge in 1994. The arrival of Hughes a year ago, and, more significantly, Ruud Gullit's recent acquisition of Gianluca Vialli, had effectively terminated his career in West London.

For Francis, harsh economies finally killed off the prospective Papin deal. Having already bought Steve Bruce, Gary Ablett and Barry Horne, and consequently broken the club's wage structure, he — had little left of his £2 million budget.

A public appeal for funds to help finance the Papin project fell on deaf ears. "I think I'm looking something monstrous," Francis said. "Papin's wages were colossal. Right up with the big boys in the Premiership. I suppose it is like sending a list to Father Christmas. You never get everything you want."

Furlong, he stressed, was by no means bottom of his list. He said: "He can score goals, is very hard working and is a team player, the type the fans can relate to." Cheaper, too.

City takeover, page 44

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5
6
7 8 9
10 11
12 13 14 15
16
17 18 19 20
21 22
23

No 836

- ACROSS**
- 1 Very drastic (remedy) (4,2,4)
 - 7 Involve (one) in conflict (7)
 - 8 Centre of iris; spud (5)
 - 10 Spanish warship (7)
 - 11 The non-ordained (5)
 - 12 Fleet of 10s (6)
 - 15 Home of Odysseus (6)
 - 17 Massacrer of innocents (5)
 - 18 Busy; already in use (7)
 - 21 Of the kidneys (5)
 - 22 In the distant past (4,3)
 - 23 Portable timepiece (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 Afghan capital (5)
 - 2 Unsecured (5)
 - 3 Rectangular (6)
 - 4 Juliet's family (7)
 - 5 Exact copy (7)
 - 6 Scientist as eg Strabo, Mercator (10)
 - 9 Settle violently; finally find (3,5,2)
 - 13 Seaman (7)
 - 14 Cheats of a (litle money) (7)
 - 16 Two-point ball; cowardly (6)
 - 19 Jean —, *Maidie, Balcony* playwright (5)
 - 20 Grind (teeth angrily) (5)

SOLUTION TO No. 835

ACROSS: 1 Top-notch 5 Isis 8 Abuse 9 New-laid 11 Fee 12 Timeable 13 Carver 15 Housed 18 Maladroiti 19 RAF 20 Chassis 21 Align 22 Hate 23 Trollope

DOWN: 1 Traffic 2 Prude 3 Over the odds 4 Cinema 6 Soapbox 7 Skid 10 Without fail 14 Reliant 16 Defence 17 Mouser 18 Micah 19 Rhimo

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 831

In association with **BRITISH MIDLAND**

ACROSS: 1 Elba 3 Ticking 8 Peacock 9 Mensa 10 Omega 11 Lauding 13 Acrobatic 17 Elector 19 Rider 20 Divan 22 Infanta 23 Midhras 24 Sewn

DOWN: 1 Expect 2 Brainwave 3 Take liberties 4 Cymru 5 Lion 6 Grange 7 Hot air 12 Incidence 14 Tariif 15 Seldom 16 Ordain 18 Tenor 21 Val

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Australian sprinter faces ban from Games after positive test

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN ATLANTA

TWO leading international track and field athletes face being banned from the Olympics for positive drugs tests only three days before the Games begin here on Friday. Iran, meanwhile, has dropped two members of its judo team and a weightlifter from its squad for the Games after they tested positive for unspecified banned substances.

As the controversy continues over the allegations, on the BBC *Panorama* programme, that 75 per cent of the track and field athletes competing here will have taken performance enhancing substances, an Australian sprinter and an Italian high jumper were protesting their innocence.

The high resolution mass spectrometer, which has been installed here for the Games, is expected to catch the largest number of cheating competitors since 1988, when ten people, including Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, tested positive. However, Dean Capobianco, a sprinter from Australia, and Antonella Bevilacqua, a high jumper from Italy, tested positive at pre-Games meetings in Europe.

Capobianco, 26, who was fifth at the 1993 world championships over 200 metres, has been found to have taken stanozolol, the same anabolic steroid that Johnson took in Seoul, when he was stripped of his 100 metres title.

Capobianco said: "I've certainly lost a lot of sleep over it since I was notified on June 25, although I know I am totally innocent."

Athletics Australia (AA), the country's governing body for the sport, said that an investi-

gation was under way. David Prince, the AA president, said: "We believe he is innocent until proven guilty."

Capobianco said of the alleged positive finding: "It is a big hurdle to overcome, being accused of taking a substance I have never ever taken in my life. In the meantime, I'm continuing to prepare to compete at the Games."

He is one of Australia's most eligible sporting bachelors. He posed naked for the *Black and White* magazine, an Olympic special issue in Australia, and featured on the front cover stretched out on the salt pans in Western Australia.

Bevilacqua, who was sixth at the 1993 world championships, says that she had used a herbal medicine, but that the

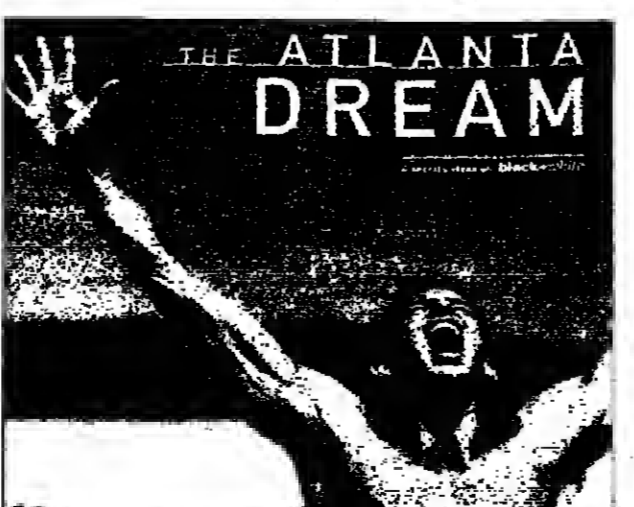
package containing the drink did not list ephedrine as one of its contents. An Italian magistrate agreed with the case put by the national athletics federation (fidal) that the doping was unintentional.

Although the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) is insisting that she should serve her three-month ban, Fidal is hoping that she will still be allowed to compete at the Games. The International Olympic Committee has altered article five in its doping regulations, which allows countries to be lenient on athletes who are found to have taken the substance in error.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has reacted quickly to the unsubstantiated claims of Dr Mike Turner, a member of its medical committee, that 75 per cent of athletes at the Games are drug-takers. Dick Palmer, the BOA general secretary, said that the BOA disassociates itself from these allegations. "There is no evidence to support this," he said.

The British Athletic Federation yesterday backed away from taking out an injunction against the programme because it was satisfied that *Panorama* made clear that British competitors underwent the most rigorous series of tests.

In Iran, Abrar, a daily newspaper, reported that Abbas Abdi and Mohammad Reza Tolouei, the judo fighters, and Shabeh Nassirnia, a weightlifter, were dropped from the squad sent to Atlanta after they tested positive. Two Greco-Roman wrestlers were expelled from the team in April for similar violations.



Should Capobianco's positive drugs test be confirmed, he will face a rude awakening from his Atlanta dream

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